FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-129
Wednesday
6 July 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-129 *6 July 1988*

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LD0607134488 [Editorial Report]

Iran and the Airbus Incident

Iran must take revenge but "the choice of timing is up to us, not to the United States," 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Majlis in a speech reported by Tehran radio. Warning that the United States may want Iran to immediately carry out some "amateurish action" somewhere in the world to divert attention from the downing of the airbus, the Majlis speaker stressed the need to "allow this crime to be digested properly in the world," adding that Iran needs to test international reaction in the United Nations and other world organizations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said there is a "strong probability" that the downing of the airbus was part of a preplanned, calculated "plot," and he emphasized that even if it were a mistake, the United States "cannot be forgiven." During the session, the Majlis approved an urgent draft bill calling for "relentless struggle at world level against global arrogance," headed by the United States, and for continuing the war with Iraq until "complete victory," the radio noted.

In other comment in the aftermath of the incident, Tehran radio criticized "some of the governments of the region" which have either not condemned the United States or have joined forces with it in blaming Iran. At a London press conference reported by PRESS ASSOCIATION, an Iran Air pilot denied that the airbus had been transmitting on a military frequency, insisting that the plane would have transmitted on a civilian code given by Dubayy Airport. The crew would have monitored the emergency frequency and responded to any U.S. calls for identification, he added. Attempts to retrieve the aircraft's black box from the Gulf have thus far proved unsuccessful, the Iran Air director noted in remarks carried by Tehran radio.

In New Delhi, Indian intelligence services have increased security measures to prevent possible actions by Iranian groups against U.S. targets in the city, TANJUG reported. The agency said that several Iranian groups have arrived in the Indian capital since the downing of the Iran Air jetliner.

Further Arab reaction to the incident included a Sudanese official statement describing the U.S. action as "totally unjustified" and maintaining that the excuses given by the United States do not absolve it of responsibility, according to SUNA. Monitored Jordanian media have thus far not been observed to carry any official reaction, but the Amman papers SAWT AL-SHA'B and JORDAN TIMES sharply criticized the U.S. action: the former described it as an "ugly crime" and the latter said the United States must accept the major share of blame.

The KUWAIT TIMES criticized the United States for doing "precious little" to show that it shares the distress caused by the tragedy, KUNA noted. The Syrian paper AL-BA'TH, in an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio, claimed that the downing of the Iranian plane was "premeditated."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes raided Iranian oil-pumping stations at Emam Hasan and Gorreh 6 July, dealing "devastating" blows and destroying their targets, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An earlier communique carried by the radio claimed that Iraq's V Corps captured two mountain peaks on the border east of Qal'at Dizah 4-5 July.

However, an Iranian communique cited by IRNA said the attack was unsuccessful, and the Iraqis were forced to retreat. Iranian forces also repulsed another attack in border heights near Panjwin, the communique added.

Lebanon

Hostage Threat—Voice of the Homeland radio announced that it had received a call from an anonymous caller threatening the execution of a U.S. hostage by 1700 GMT 5 July. The caller, who claimed to be speaking on behalf of the Islamic Jihad, said the execution would be in revenge for the downing of the Iranian airliner. However, anaylysts in Beirut cited by AFP did not take the threat seriously because Islamic Jihad's threats have previously been accompanied by photographs of hostages.

In a press statement cited by Radio Monte Carlo, Shi'ite theologian Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah stressed that the downing of the airliner does not justify punishing Western hostages in Lebanon.

Burj al-Barajinah Conflict—Forces of Abu Musa's Fatah Provisional Command advanced into the western part of Burj al-Barajinah 6 July, AFP reported. The move followed further fighting the previous day during which some 400 supporters of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat surrendered their weapons and left the camp, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. 'Abu Musa's forces captured two positions from 'Arafat's forces, who lack the heavy artillery available to their opponents, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

However, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio maintained that the camp defenders foiled attacks by the "agent dissidents" the morning of 5 July. The dissidents bombarded Burj al-Barajinah with "hundreds" of shells supplied by the Syrian Army, killing or wounding 63 people in the camp, the radio said.

In a related development, Tripoli radio announced that Libya has ordered its officers in Beirut to return home to protest the breaking of cease-fire agreements between the

warring Palestinian factions in the camps. This decision was made in light of Libya's realization that "there are signs of a scheme which it does not want to be part of," the radio added. Voice of Lebanon said the Libyan observers withdrew because Syria refused to form a disengagement force under their supervision.

In the UAE, WAKH cited an AL-ITTIHAD report that the Soviet Union has warned the Fatah dissidents against attempting to capture Burj al-Barajinah. AL-ITTIHAD, which cited a "highranking Soviet diplomatic source," also disclosed that the USSR has informed Syria of its "great annoyance" over the Abu Musa group's attacks on the Beirut camps.

In an "urgent appeal" to Arab leaders, broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio, Yasir 'Arafat again held Syria responsible for the attacks on the camps by its "agent tools" and urged Arab leaders to "act quickly" to prevent further bloodshed.

In contrast, a PFLP-GC statement broadcast by the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio accused the Fatah leadership of "exploding the situation" in Lebanon and of waging an "immoral" media campaign against Syria. The PFLP-GC also urged Abu Musa's group to respond favorably to Libyan-sponsored peace efforts.

Inter-Arab Diplomacy

Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Baghdad at the head of a high-level delegation comprising 10 ministers, INA reported. Sidqi will deliver a message to President Saddam Husayn and will head the Egyptian side in the first session of the higher joint committee for cooperation.

In Jordan, King Husayn received the Kuwaiti foreign minister, who delivered a message from the amir covering Arab developments and bilateral relations, Amman radio noted.

Sudan

International initiatives to solve the southern problem have failed and the government will seek "new alternatives," the government spokesman announced in a press statement cited by SUNA.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio reported the arrival in Afghanistan of UN envoy Diego Cordovez, noting his remark that the issues of Afghanistan "must be solved by Afghans themselves." The radio also announced that the commander of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's forces in Ghazni Province was killed during a recent clash with security forces.

According to Islamabad radio, mujahidin recently captured Qades, a district capital 75 km from the Soviet border. Reports that Soviet and Afghan warplanes recently caused heavy damage to the city of Kowt-e 'Ashrow (also known as Maydan Shahr) were denied by a Soviet spokesman cited by TASS. The city remains under government control and has suffered no destruction, he maintained.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League's Klibi Receives Gorbachev Reply

LD0207100888 Tunis TAP in French 1330 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Tunis—On Thursday, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi received Vladimir Sobchenko the Soviet ambassador to Tunis, who delivered Mikhail Gorbachev's response to the message Klibi sent to the CPSU general secretary on the eve of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

After the meeting, the Soviet diplomat told the press that the talks, which come within the framework of periodic consultations between the Soviet leaders and the Arab League secretary general, facilitated a summing up of the Middle East situation, the Gulf conflict, the results of the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers, as well as other topical issues. Sobchenko also said he informed Klibi of the development of the work of the CPSU conference currently being held in Moscow.

We note that the Arab League secretary general also received Shaykh Tahir Radhwan, Saudi Arabia's permanent representative to the League.

Al-Qadhdhafi Plans Minisummit on Beirut Events

JN0307180088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is currently holding meetings to convene a quadripartite summit in Tripoli among Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and himself.

A prominent Palestinian source in Beirut told AL-ITTIHAD, citing the head of the Libyan military observers in the Beirut camps, that the purpose of this summit is to discuss the serious Palestinian developments in Lebanon which have taken place after the fall of the Shatila camp and to contain the differences which arose between Syria and the PLO after the Beirut camps' fighting.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP Condemns 'Black Crime' of Downing Plane

JN0407162988 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The PFLP has condemned the black crime which the United States perpetrated against the civilian Iranian airliner, killing 290 people.

A spokesman for the Front's Political Bureau said in a statement here today this new crime fits in with the official terrorist line of the Untied States, which has typified the Reagan administration. The crime was an inevitable result of the U.S. military presence and deployment in the Arabian Gulf. The ugly crime underscores the bloody nature of American policy against the peoples of the region, the spokesman added.

At the same time the U.S. forces downed the Iranian plane, Israel's fascist, occupation forces committed a heinous crime against defenseless citizens on the grounds of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The PFLP called on peoples and democratic and progressive forces around the wrld to denounce and condemn the American crime and close ranks to limit the official American aggressiveness. It called for the withdrawal of the U.S. and NATO military fleets from the Gulf, since their continued deployment constitutes an ongoing American aggression and a trigger for further outrages.

'Arafat Appeals for Intervention in Camps War

JN0507194488 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 5 Jul 88

["Text" of "urgent appeal" by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, to Arab leaders on the Burj al-Barajinah fighting—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Blessed Arab greetings. Not even a week has passed since our previous appeal to you on the renewal of the aggression against our people's camps in Beirut. This aggression consisted of the shelling and destruction of what remained of the Shatila camp which has stood fast for 6 years. Those in this camp confronted a series of massacres during which the various parties would commit aggression against the camp and its inhabitants under different covers and slogans pursuant to the now-exposed U.S. scheme.

Following the destruction of the Shatila camp and after killing, expelling, arresting, and pursuing the Shatila camp inhabitants who remained alive, the Syrian intelligence organs and those who receive orders from them, the agent tools which have resorted to killing as a profession, have tightened their military, security, and foodstuff siege on the Burj al-Barajinah camp. This has been accompanied by the resumption of intensive and concentrated shelling of the camp since dawn today.

The shelling consists of artillery and missiles from Syrian positions in the Beirut area and the mountain. Attempts to attack, advance, and storm the perimeters of the camp by mixed forces are currently taking place. These mixed forces are being massed around the camp and the nearby areas.

Brother Arab leaders, you are aware that since the beginning, the PLO has been eager to tackle these attacks with a high sense of responsibility, wisdom, and patience. From this premise, we held successive contacts with the Syrian command through the fraternal mediation by the brothers in the Algerian, Libyan, and Saudi commands, not to mention the efforts by the other

friendly international parties to prevent the implementation of this scheme which seeks to carry out a new displacement conspiracy against our people's existence and camps in Lebanon.

This conspiracy, regrettably, is in line with what the Zionist enemy is planning for our people and camps in Lebanon. It seeks to defame the image of Palestinian struggle, undermine our people's gains and their blessed uprising, and deal a blow to Arab unity which has become embodied in the Algiers uprising summit and the important results it produced.

Perhaps you are aware of the meaning and the dimensions of this scheme which used to be carried out under different covers and different masks; one time a Lebanese mask, another time the mask of the agents of Israel, and a third time a false Palestinian mask. All this is to depict this new aggression as being one of intra-Palestinian fighting. The truth is that what is taking place is far from this.

Brothers, these current events do not exonerate the Syrian forces from the responsibility of checking the implementation of this scheme. We all know that since the entry of the Syrian forces into Beirut, no Palestinian or Lebanese can move around in West Beirut while carrying personal weapons. By God, how then can guns, missiles, and launchers be moved as well as these troop concentrations which shell these camps from Syrian guns?

Brother Arab leaders, our Palestinian Arab people, particularly following the crime of the destruction of the Shatila camp which is the crime of the century, now realize that what is taking place against Burj al-Barajinah and what is waiting fc the other camps of our people in Lebanon is not only directed against the Palestinian national presence and the status our national struggle enjoys worldwide but also seeks to harm the pan-Arab achievements that the Algiers summit had scored.

They also realize that these events seek to obscure the feats our people are recording through huge sacrifices in their heroic daily confrontations of the Zionist forces of occupation within the framework of the continuation and the escalation of their blessed uprising.

In view of the responsibility I assume, I reiterate my appeal to my brother Arab leaders, on behalf of the thousands who are besieged and detained and on behalf of the martyrs' families and the women and children who are the victims of this ongoing barbaric aggression against our camps in Beirut and Lebanon, to act quickly to prevent the further shedding of blood, to protect the lives of the innocents who are facing death and [word indistinct], and to prevent the cancellation of the uprising's achievements and the Arab summit resolutions.

I appeal to you in the name of brotherhood and Arabism to immediately intervene to stop this old-new aggresion in order to foil the schemes of the enemies of our people and of our Arab nation who seek to drag us into peripheral battles. We all are aware of the perils and dimensions of these battles on our national and pan-Arab struggle in this fateful stage through which our nation and our sacred cause, the cause of Palestine, are experiencing.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight, because they are wronged; and verily, God is most powerful for their aid; They are those who have been expelled from their homes in defiance of their right for no cause except that they say: Our Lord is God." [Koranic verses]

[Signed] Your brother, Yasir 'Arafat

Khalaf Says Syrian Entry in Shatila 'Hateful'

JN0307153488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Tunis, 3 Jul (INA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has asserted that the Syrian forces' entry into the Shatila camp is an attempt to conceal Iraq's great victories in Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], Majnun, and the northern heights, as well as to weaken the uprising's momentum in the occupied territories.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Tunis today, Salah Khalaf added that the new situation being experienced by the Arab nation following Iraq's successive victories, which were realized thanks to the wisdom and capability of President Saddam Husayn, has irritated enemies of the nation. These enemies are now planning to weaken and undermine this nation so it will not be capable of confrontation and demanding its rights. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf added that the Syrian forces' entry into Shatila Camp over the bodies of children, women, and old people is one of the hateful actions against the victories realized by the Iraqi and Palestinian peoples, who created permanent feats for the Arab nation through their pure blood.

He asserted that the treasonous crimes committed against the Arab nation's causes serve the Zionist entity's scheme. This entity seeks to turn our Arab age into setbacks, defeats, and capitulation. Such an atmosphere is favorable for actions by hostile forces and for the implementation of their aggressive schemes. Khalaf emphasized that no one can conceal the new situation created by the Iraqi-Palestinian liberation march. The hands that removed submission and created the Arab chivalry, which aspires for liberation, will decapitate the agent heads that boast of their alliance with foreigners.

Fatah's Salah Khalaf on Abu Sharif Statements

JN0307080888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The statement recently made by Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, on the PLO's readiness to hold direct talks with Israel in an international peace conference has caused and continues to cause a flood of reactions, especially in the Palestinian arena.

In a public reaction, which is the second of its kind this week, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, expressed his regret over the issuance of such a statement by Bassam Abu sharif.

In a statement broadcast last night by Tunisian radio, Abu Iyad said: Abu Sharif's statements are out of place because they make concessions and introduce a new language in the Palestinian arena at a time when the Palestinian people are continuing their heroic uprising against Israeli occupation.

Abu Iyad added that his objection to these statements does not concern the purpose, but the new language, the concessions included, and the choice of time. He concluded: We wanted to throw the ball in the Israeli and U.S. court, but it is now in our court and here lies the error.

In the first public stand announced last Tuesday, Abu Iyad criticized Bassam Abu Sharif's statements, demanding an end to his political banter and deviationist statements, as he said.

USSR Issues 'Warning' to PNSF Over Camps War

JN0507102088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0905 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 July (WAKH)—A highranking Soviet diplomatic source has revealed that Moscow has issued a strongly worded warning to the Fatah dissidents' leadership warning them against any attempt to capture Burj al-Barajinah camp, as was the case with the Shatila camp.

The source told the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published today in Abu Dhabi, that Moscow informed Damascus of its great annoyance with the action taken by some members of the dissidents' leadership to capture the Shatila camp and that a lukewarm atmosphere prevails over relations between Moscow and the PNSF leadership due to the PNSF's military escalation against the Beirut camps.

The source said that a few days ago a meeting was held at the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. The meeting was attended by a number of the dissidents' leaders. During the meeting, the situation in the Beirut camps was discussed in light of the new Soviet stand.

A neutral Palestinian source has said that the dissidents' leadership has asked for the departure from the camp of a Fatah oficial, together with seven of his aides, as a precondition for agreeing to a cease-fire in the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

The source said that Mohamed Taher, the Algerian president's personal envoy, conveyed this condition to the Fatah leader in Burj al-Barajinah, but the latter rejected it.

The source disclosed that the Libyan observers, who number 27 officers, led by Major Salim Sirjani, have totally withdrawn from the Beirut camps. A number of these officers went to Damascus, while others headed for a Libyan troop base in the town of Hammana in Upper Al-Matn, which is under PSP control.

HA'ARETZ Views PLO's 'Financial Empire'

TA0207075088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 p B5

[Article by Eliyahu Zehavi: "The Financial Empire of the PLO"]

[Text] Copenhagen—The Swiss newspaper TAGES ANZEIGER published an article on a subject on which more is unknown than known: the financial empire of the PLO. The newspaper's correspondent was permitted entry to the PLO office in one of the refugee camps in Beirut during the distribution of welfare payments. A young woman presented a list of expenses, beside her the widow of a fighter received her monthly stipend, and a man whose home was destroyed in fighting received a sum of money for expenses in the rebuilding of his house.

The PLO treasurer in Beirut, who is prepared to be identified only as "Sharif," estimates that the PLO grants financial aid to 10,000 to 15,000 family heads in Lebanon. Details of the exact amount of money are considered "a political-military secret."

In many ways the PLO now forms "the framework of a state." It funds and maintains kindergartens, hospitals, and institutions for war casualties and old people, as well as 90 embassies around the world. The number of PLO bureaucrats is estimated to be in the thousands. If the PLO were to become the ruling government of a country very few of the bureaucrats would find themselves out of work. Most of them would continue in their present jobs while enjoying the glory of being the official representatives of a sovereign state.

The Algiers conference decided to give the PLO an extraordinary allowance of $128 million, in addition to the special allocation of $40 million monthly, to pay for the intifada [uprising].

The PLO has a "national fund" which openly distributes $150 million annually to fund the struggle [against Israel]. Of this amount, $90 million is budgeted to cover the expenses of 20,000 fighters organized in 4 brigades.

The Swiss correspondent estimates that PLO secret funds come to some $14 billion. PLO money is invested in commercial firms: a chicken farm in Genoa, a tax free shop in Tanzania, an airline in the Maldive Islands, and businesses in East Europe.

In addition to these profitable investments, the PLO collects 5 to 7 percent of the salaries of Palestinian workers in Persian Gulf countries. The amount is automatically deducted from their pay and transferred to the PLO "national fund."

The correspondent says that the PLO success in maintaining its standing in Lebanon, despite pressure from Syria, is derived from the financial strength of 'Arafat who is called "a treasurer with a Kalashnikov." The money helps 'Arafat maintain his position and influence in the PLO.

The newspaper does not deal with another important source of PLO income: producing drugs in Lebanon. In recent years it has changed from growing hemp for the production of hashish to growing poppies for the production of opium and heroin. The drugs provide an income for all the political factions in Lebanon. The PLO, thanks to its political connections abroad, has taken on the responsibility for smuggling and selling the drugs in West European and North American markets.

OPEC Affairs

New OPEC Secretary General Assumes Duties

LD0107125988 Vienna OPECNA in English 0909 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Vienna, 1 July 88 (OPECNA)—Dr Subroto, former Indonesian minister of mines and energy, today took over as the 14th secretary general of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The office at the Vienna-based OPEC secretariat has been vacant since Dr Marc Nan Nguema of Gabon finished his term as secretary general in 1983.

Subroto, an economist, served as Indonesian minister of mines and energy for 10 years from 1978 until 1988.

Following his replacement by Ginandjar Kartasasmita in March this year, Subroto still attended the OPEC consultative meeting here in April as an adviser to his successor.

During his tenure as minister, he served as OPEC conference president in 1980 and between 1984 and 1985.

He also sat on several OPEC ministerial bodies such as the Executive Committee established in 1984 to ensure the implementation of the decisions on oil production, exports and prices of member countries and the special committee in 1985 to defend fair oil prices for OPEC.

Subroto was also a member of the OPEC ministrial group which made contact in 1986 with non-OPEC oil producing countries.

His appointment as secretary general which was made at the 83rd meeting of the OPEC conference will be for a three-year term, "in accordance with Article 28.a of the (OPEC) statute" '.

In a statement in Jakarta, a few days after his appointment, Subroto said that the unity of OPEC was more crucial today than at any other time.

Describing unity as the main pillar on which the 13-member organization could stand, he said that he would tour all member countries soon after assuming office.

He also said that he would tour those non-OPEC oil producing countries which had expressed their willingness to cut their oil exports in support of OPEC's market stabilization efforts.

According to Subroto, current contacts between OPEC and non-OPEC countries could be further developed by establishing joint committees at ministerial or technical levels.

He also promised to improve the image of OPEC through OPECNA, the news agency set up by the organization in 1980. [passage omitted]

Seeks Ties With Energy Groups

LD0107132288 Vienna OPECNA in English 0917 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Vienna, 1 July (OPECNA)—Dr Subroto, OPEC's new secretary general, said Thursday he would try to "get as many friends as possible" for the organization in order to stabilize the international oil market and strengthen prices.

"Apart from contacts with non-OPEC oil producers, we will also establish closer relations with the four regional energy cooperation groups constituting Arab, African, Latin American and Southeast Asian countries," he said here on arrival from Jakarta.

OPEC needed cooperation in its market stabilization efforts, he said, adding that all oil producing countries were looking for world oil price stability.

He pointed out that several OPEC countries were part of one or the other regional group, namely, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC),

the African Petroleum Producers Association (APPA), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the Asean Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE).

Subroto said he would tour all 13 OPEC member countries shortly to "show my face and introduce myself".

He could not say when the tour would begin, but added that he would like to undertake it "as soon as practicable".

Subroto, who today took charge of the OPEC secretary general's office, unoccupied for the last five years, strongly denied news reports that he would wish his office to be akin to that of the UN secretary general. "I am not that pretentious," he remarked.

He said, however, that he saw the role of the OPEC secretary general as that of a peacemaker who could help iron out differences among member states. "This will be one of my duties," he added.

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives Moroccan, Lebanese Officials

LD0407101688 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] President Bendjedid held two audiences today. The head of state received Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri, who gave him a message from King Hassan II. The head of state also received Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of Lebanon. The latter was also received by Mr Cherif Messaadia, the official responsible for the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat. He was also received by Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi. The discussions centered on the latest developments in Lebanon.

Receives Leader Messages

LD0507024288 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jul 88]

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received Mauritanian Finance and Economy Mohamed Ould Nany at the presidential office. During the meeting, Mohamed Ould Nany conveyed a message from the Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to the president.

President Chadli Bendjedid received a telephone call from Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium.

Foreign Minister on Meeting with Mitterrand

LD0207143788 Algiers APS in English 1336 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Paris, 2 July (APS)—In a declaration to the press at the end of his meeting with President Francois Mitterrand the foreign minister, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, said that this meeting constituted the first political contact at this level between Algeria and France since the reelection of the French President.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi said he handed to the French head of state a message from President Chadli Bendjedid. "The message, he said, comes in the frame of faithfullness of the tradition of exchange of information, of points of views on many issues which are on the agenda of all the meetings between the two heads of state".

The bilateral relations were in the core of these talks and all the aspects of these relations were examined with the common will to give a resolute impetus, a significant impetus to the bilateral cooperation, the minister added.

Among these aspects, Taleb Ibrahimi cited notably the problem of children of divorced mixed couples (born from marriage of Algerians to French women). The dossier of gas, expected, he recalled, to be settled.

"We are convinced, after these talks, the minister added, that gas will be again the key element of the development of the economic and commercial relations between Algeria and France".

Besides the bilateral cooperation, talks dealt with the regional international political issues, Dr Taleb also indicated.

"Dialogue between France and Algeria was at the level of the traditional density, whatever was the topic the Maghreb, [as received] the Middle East notably following the Palestinian people's uprising, the Iraq-Iran conflict, Africa and notably after the rapprochement between Libya and Chad," Taleb Ibrahimi said.

Egypt

Airliner Downing Emphasizes Need To End Gulf War

NC0507131788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "The Iranian Airliner Incident Reasserts the Need To End the Gulf War"]

[Text] Egypt has expressed its regret over the incident involving the Iranian passenger airliner, which is considered to be the sixth worst accident in the world. Likewise, the whole world voiced regret over this accident, which victimized hundreds of innocent civilians. The incident underlines the gravity of the situation in the Gulf and the possibility of even worse developments if the region remains a hotbed of military tension, and as long as international fleets are stationed there.

The downing of the Iranian airliner, which occurred by mistake, as the United States has affirmed, is not the first of its kind and will not be the last given the deteriorating situation in this sensitive area as a result of the continuing war. The incident was preceded by the shooting down of a U.S. aircraft and by the accidental attack on a Soviet cargo ship. This, however, points to the same conclusion: If the war continues, further incidents will occur and many more people will die.

We are now faced with an urgent and important question: What led the situation to this grave and tense stage? Answering this question does not require great effort. The answer is crystal clear. The deterioration of the situation in the Gulf is a natural result of the behavior of the Iranian rulers and their insistence on continuing the war against Iraq on the assumption that they are capable of imposing their will by force.

This policy prompted them to threaten more than once to close the international Hormuz Strait or to mine the regional waters. These threats and actions, in turn, prompted the international fleets to come to the area to protect their ships and to ensure safe international navigation through this vital route.

Certain people may wonder why the blame is put on Iran and not Iraq. We maintain that Iraq has consistently expressed its readiness to stop the fighting and to sit down at the negotiating table, whereas Iran continues to reject any peace efforts. Thus, a great part of the blame must be placed on the Iranian rulers and their policy. The killing of innocent civilians in addition to the current military setbacks and defeats which Iran has sustained at the hands of the Iraqi forces, which inflicted more casualties and losses in equipment on Iran, are a logical result of the policy of the Iranian rulers which turns a deaf ear to international appeals to halt the fighting.

Because the incident involving the Iranian airliner may prompt the parties concerned and the international community to take quick and earnest action to stop this war and to establish peace, it also may prompt the Iranian people to call on their leaders to heed the voice of reason and seek an end to the war with Iraq. This action is in the interest of the Iranian people before anyone else, and, at the same time, in the interest not only of the Middle East peoples, but also the peoples of the whole world.

Iran Cautioned Against 'Hysterical Behavior'
NC0507081388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has expressed its sorrow over the tragedy of the downed Iranian airliner, in which approximately 300 innocent men, women, and children lost their lives. The paper notes that this tragedy once again underlines the need to make every possible effort to end this foolish war, whose flames burn innocent people who have commited no crime but to accidentaly fly over a blazing section of the battlefield.

In its commentary today, the paper says that the majority of the victims are the subjects of the Iranian state, which bears the responsibility for the continuation of this war and for rejecting peace endeavors. Still, the paper says, one can only feel sorry and sadness for this tragedy and for the victims, though similar tragedies have been expected in this atmosphere of the feverish war, which has turned the Gulf region into a hotbed of unlimited hazards.

The paper hopes that this calamity will persuade Iranian leaders to resort to reason and to seek to resolve their disputes by the peaceful means recognized by the civilized world.

The paper concludes by drawing Tehran's attention to the fact that any hysterical behavior will not restore the lost innocent lives. The paper believes that it is better for Khomeyni and his men to study the situation calmly, because excitement will only lead to further flare-ups.

Israel Said To Deliberately Prolong Gulf War
NC0507084788 Cairo Television Service in English 1715 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Salim Rizqallah commentary]

[Excerpts] In this region of ours, all and every endeavor for a radical change of mood and a new era of desperately needed peaceful relaxation conflicts with a fanatic determination by the rulers of Israel not only to dominate others, but to fan the flames of any feud or conflict in the area that would breed the kind of climate likely to further that morbid objective.

Our assessment is based on outright facts and precision. What is all the more gripping is that there seems to be no breakthrough in view and no attempt on the part of the Israeli Government to part with that disastrous policy, which has not only plagued the entire area for decades, but heralds a grim future by far all the more tragic.

A quick glance at endeavors elsewhere in the world to reduce tension and turmoil and put an end to bitter strife by solving crucial problems and ending the illegal occupation of the land of others grips us all the more as we see our region singled out as the only area where hope for peace and justice remains a fantasy dream totally out of reach because of that dogmatic concept of supremacy and domination entertained by those who claim to have been the main victims of Nazism, only to take pride today in having improved on Nazi methods. [passage omitted]

Everywhere in the world—whether it is a superpower, a major power, or a small power—all feel it is high time radical steps were taken to put an end to bloody strife and to change conditions which conflict with the dictates of international law and are incompatible with the letter and spirit of the UN Charter and the universal declaration of human rights. Everywhere but in this region, because of the arrogance of those who have grown to believe they can do anything and get away with it, and through scheming and defiance can flout all and every world decision and continue to usurp the land and rights of others. [passage omitted]

Time and again we have warned that escalation of the conflict in this area and the prolongation of the Gulf war are by far more dangerous than any other holocaust in modern history. To be more explicit and bring the picture closer to our minds, we have but to draw a comparison between World War II and the Gulf war. Millions died in World War II and the ravages were horrendous by all standards. Yet the Gulf conflict is much more dangerous for one simple reason. Once World War II had ended after 6 years of bitter fighting, bloodshed, death, and terror, it became a closed chapter. This side won; the other lost. There was nothing more to it. Reconstruction and rehabilitation started, marking an entirely new era in no way pressured, influenced, or hampered by the past.

The Gulf war has been going on for 8 years. Its very nature is different, almost unique in the sense that the longer it lasts, the greater the breed of fanatic maniacs in Iran, an inevitable product of Khomeyni brainwashing. Hence, the tragedy of a prolonged Gulf war. Should the Iran-Iraq war end today with some armistice or peace agreement or whatever, technically the state of belligerency may be no more, but most certainly the hordes of brainwashed maniacs will never be made redundant and the aftermath will prove disastrous to the whole world, let alone with more years of fighting and hostility. It is this irrevocable concept that goes a long way to explain why the Gulf is proving by far more dangerous than World War II.

An Iranian maniac ready to drive a suicide truck and be blown up with it, convinced that his spirit will soar to heaven, will not become a retired dove when the war is over. He most certainly becomes the nucleus of a terrorist movement ready to strike anywhere and everywhere in the world whatever the wording of the official document ending the state of belligerency. In other words, the whole world is becoming all the more threatened day by day by a lurking giant terrorist movement, the Khomeyni-bred and brainwashed maniacs calling themselves the Revolutionary Guards or whatever other fancy names they may choose to coin and to label themselves with.

Israel is directly responsible for this state of affairs and tomorrow her guilt will be felt by the world all the more. Israel has resorted to all and every devious method to make sure that Iranian arsenals are constantly replenished. It was Israel that instigated and planned the Irangate scandal and persuaded U.S. officials to provide sophisticated armaments and equipment to the Khoemyni regime to keep the war raging, with a view to pressuring the Arab Gulf countries and draining their resources.

It is well-known that Israel was instrumental in the conclusion of devious arms deals between certain European manufactuers and Tehran, with the Israeli Government arranging for the transportation and delivery. It is no secret that Israel has an airlift with Iran for the dispatch of armaments and military spare parts.

It is Israel that has arranged for Khomeyni agents to infiltrate into Lebanon and assume an active role in the campaign of Palestinian genocide so that today the fate of Lebanon's future has become a joint Iranian-Syrian affair to the extent that even local cease-fires between the warring militias do not hold unless a senior official of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs endorses them. The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which tells of Tehran's direct political influence in Lebanon, forced on that once peaceful Arab country through outright Israeli connivance. [sentence as heard]

Iraq's brilliant military feats in the past few months call for great caution. It is not Iranian retaliation that should worry anyone, but Israeli attempts to put the Iraqis at a disadvantage to stop the Gulf war from ending, leaving behind a veteran Iraqi military power east of Israel. Already the Iraqis have complained that satellite information on Iraqi positions, troop concentrations, and movements was being passed on to Tehran.

Khomeyni's military defeats have not stopped him from building underground missile sites to threaten all shipping passing through the Strait of Hormuz, without those lurking Iranian war devices being detected by the American sophisticated surveillance systems.

The short-sighted Israeli policy of prolonging the Gulf war for self-styled ends will cost the human community very dearly when Khomeyni's terrorist maniacs begin roaming the world. In the present unending chaotic situation in the area, everyday something new is happening to add to the bitterness of those engaged in that futile strife. The most recent tragedy being the shooting down by mistake of an Iranian airliner with some 300 people aboard. American naval units engaged in battle with Iranian hostile vessels in the Gulf mistook the airliner for a military jet and brought it down with no survivors reported.

Before such tragic escalation, for which the Israeli Government assumes the lion's share, and with Israel combating all and every peace endeavor in the area, and looking down with contempt on world appeals calling for justice and an end to ruthless oppression, our area becomes the only region in the world to remain gripped by a feeling of grim uncertainty and breed the terrorist elements of tomorrow.

U.S. Support for Israel Brings 'Astonishment'

NC0407094388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM expresses astonishment over the continued U.S. backing and military support for Israel while it simultaneously fails to convince that country to accept the establishment of peace in the Middle East region as the only way to avoid military escalations.

In its editorial today, the paper questions the means of achieving at least a balance between prospects for war and prospects for peace, which is the cornerstone of any major or minor strategy. It notes that the United States and Israel have made another stride in their strategic cooperation with the signing of the memorandum of understanding, which was considered highly secret because of the information contained in it, particularly the necessary studies for producing an anti-missile missile.

AL-AHRAM warns that if the special relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv allows them to propel military cooperation between them to the maximum

level, without hindrance from anyone because this is their sovereign right, then it would be logical for the Arab countries to establish special relationships with other parties if they cannot enter through the U.S. door because of the guard there, namely Congress. It adds that this situation might theoretically lead to an endless arms race in all its forms, which are limitless because of the continued scientific and technological advances, with all its ensuing dangers.

AL-AHRAM adds in its editorial that the proposed positive Arab cards to establish a just peace in the region, which were accepted by the world and supported by the United States, as well as the U.S. cards, will become petrified because of the Israeli card of rejection. It adds that the excuse always used to justify the unequal bias in favor of Israel in the field of armament is 'numerical' advantage in general. The prevailing attitude is that because Israel is standing as a single entity opposite a number of Arab entities, it must have superiority with regard to the balance of forces.

According to this thinking, such superiority would ensure that Israel would not face any dangers from the Arabs even though the situation in region has, theoretically, made the Arabs face not only one danger, that is, Israel, but also the creeping Iranian danger that now supposedly equals the Israeli danger.

Timing of U.S. Arrest of Alleged Smuggler Viewed
PM0507082188 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
28 Jun 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Why Did the United States Choose This Time To Accuse the Egyptian Scientist?!"]

[Text] The U.S. Government surprised the world, the Arabs, and the Egyptians with the announcement of the arrest of a group of Egyptians allegedly smuggling or exporting materials without a license. They were not just accused of failing to conform with U.S. export regulations. In fact, they were accused of conspiracy, on the basis of which missile expert Professor Dr 'Abd al-Qadir, who with his Egyptian wife holds U.S. nationality, was detained.

The first question that springs to the mind of anyone who has heard the news is: Why now?!

The U.S. State Department claims that the participants had been under observation for 3 months. It also claims that previously documents containing information on the development of missiles had been found in the garbage collected from the Egyptian scientist's home! This is in addition to other claims. It is known that since the establishment of the "special" relationship between Egypt and the United States huge cargo planes similar to that detained at Baltimore Airport have been transporting thousands of military, semi-military, and even civilian items from the United States to Egypt. So, what has prompted the U.S. Government, specifically the State Department in this case, to make its statement at this particular time?

This is in the knowledge that there are thousands of cases in the United States involving the export of manufactured items without a license. In fact, almost all exporters do this to benefit from the sale of the latest technology, not only to states friendly to the United States, but to the Soviet Union and the socialist states in general. But, when such incidents are exposed no accusations of espionage or sabotage tend to be made.

The second question is: Why was this incident announced when U.S.-Egyptian communication channels are wide and numerous and when many problems, which are bound to result from such a strong and intermingled relationship, can be resolved via so-called secret diplomacy? Why make such an announcement this time when the material was purchased openly from an American company and was being freighted from an official U.S. airport? In both cases the party responsible for securing a license for export, and indeed for the sale in the first place, was the American company, that is, the seller, not the purchaser, according to U.S. laws.

But the claim that the plane was detained in response to a decision by the U.S. Customs Department is a lie. This has been exposed by the fact revealed in the U.S. statement; namely, that the entire operation had been under observation for 3 months. So, it was not uncovered accidentally, as they claim.

The third question is: Why was the United States anxious to mention in its statement that the items were destined for Egypt and the Middle East, implying that such items are used in the manufacture of weapons (missiles) like those used by Iraq?

The fourth question that comes to mind is: Is there any link between what was revealed recently about the spread of corruption within the U.S. Army command, including trading in information and materials by its senior officials, and the timing and the announcement of this case?

There are many other questions to which we must try to guess the answers. In addition to these questions there are a number of important observations:

—First, the statement was issued by the U.S. Justice Department, which is known for its hostility to the Arabs. Its notable stand in this regard is the U.S. Attorney General's insistence on closing the PLO office despite the U.S. State Department's objection.

—Second, the name of the public attorney investigating the case is David Lavi, undoubtedly Jewish and most likely a fanatical Zionist working according to his emotions and probably receiving a fee for serving the Jewish state, Israel. It pleases him to obstruct the Arab arms industry or at least cause tension in Egyptian-U.S. relations.

—Third, the publication of the statement coincided with the increasing talk about Arab missiles, whether those in Iraq, those Saudi Arabia has purchased from China, or those manufactured in Egyptian factories. THE WASHINGTON POST did not hide this fact. It said that preventing the export of this material is intended to curb the missile race in the Middle East region. But, when Israel announced a year ago its possession of medium-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, no protests were made, according to statements made by Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah in his interview with a Saudi National Guard magazine.

—Fourth, this measure coincided with increasing talk about coolness in Egyptian-Israeli relations, the Egyptian leadership's rigidity in the Tabah case, and an improvement in Arab-Egyptian relations, as well as Egypt's increasing sympathy with the Palestinian uprising and the PLO; in addition to the improvement in Egyptian-Soviet relations. So, did this anger the Americans and, therefore, prompt them to caution the Egyptian leadership by fabricating this case?

The U.S. Government sparked off the case and escalated its measures to the point of summoning the Egyptian charge d'affaires to the U.S. State Department Friday evening. They asked for an explanation of the incident—a diplomatic phrase indicating reproach and requesting an apology. Did the Americans forget that previously they violated Egyptian sovereignty, hijacked an airborne civilian aircraft, and offended the president of the Republic, and yet offered no apology?

—Finally, the Americans made a big mistake when they thought that the announcement of an incident such as this would intimidate the Egyptians, just as the announcement of the incident involving the spy Pollard intimidated the Israelis.

Actually the Egyptians are proud of these actions and are by no means afraid of upsetting the Americans. The Israelis might be so because the United States is Israel's protector and source of livelihood, sustenance, strength, and armament. As for Egypt, its people are capable of protecting it, making limitless sacrifices in defense of dignity, and working hard to boost its strength.

A salute to the Egyptian scientist detained at the U.S. Sacramento Prison and a salute to those who worked with him.

AL-AHRAM Urges 'Firm' Arab Stand Against Syria

JN0307134588 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Jul 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Syrian Behavior and Arab Responsibility"]

[Text] As if what happened to the Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila in 1982 at the hands of the Phalangist forces under the supervision and with the blessing of Sharon, then Israeli defense minister, were not enough, Syria has recently given the green light to the Fatah dissident forces under Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] to commit the same crimes against the Palestinians. Hundreds are being butchered and thousands displaced under a terrible plan, which represents the common desire of both Syria and Israel to expel all Palestinians from Lebanon.

We wonder here: What shame has the Syrian regime brought upon itself by its action against the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership while the uprising is attracting the attention, sympathy, and appreciation of the entire world?

Does the Syrian regime think that control over Shatila camp represents a pan-Arab victory, which should override Palestinian steadfastness in the occupied territory with stones against Israel's formidable force? Or do the Syrian regime's leaders think that by this mean action they can attract attention and achieve their impossible dream of keeping the Palestinian card under their control and tutelege and remove 'Arafat, who is recognized by the entire world as the symbol of Palestinian struggle in his capacity as chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, which is recognized by the world as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?

These Syrian practices require a firm Arab stand because it is difficult to remain silent over a plan that is obviously seeking the same objectives as Israel against the PLO and its legitimate chairman. Proof of this is the obvious jubilation in the statement of the Israeli leaders after Shatila camp fell to the Fatah dissidents under Abu Musa, the first agent of the Syrian regime in the Palestinian arena.

We believe that the Arab world is called upon to pay attention to the appeal made by 'Arafat to all Arab kings and presidents to stop this inhuman massacre, which is part of a bigger plan to liquidate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The continuation of this crime will not only harm the Palestinian struggle and weaken the uprising, but will also have a negative effect on the Arab situation before the whole world.

Moreover, it will give Israel the opportunity to continue to evade the challenges and obligations of peace and to obstruct the international conference, using the same old excuses that the Palestinians and Arabs are divided among themselves and are not ready to accept peace and assume its responsibilities and commitments.

An urgent Arab meeting, at least at the foreign minister level, must be called with the desire of protecting the Palestinian revolution and the brave uprising before it is too late and the Arab nation loses whatever hope is left to exploit the uprising in the interests of peace in the region.

Libya

Envoys Summoned Over Iran Airliner Incident

LD0507140888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1250 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jul (JANA)—In Tripoli this morning, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah, and informed them of the Great Jamahiriyah's great concern over the new criminal action committed by the United States; the downing of the Iranian civilian airliner in the Arab Gulf and the killing of all its 290 passengers.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison again warned against the dangers to air and naval navigation, as well as to the freedom of movement, of the U.S. military presence in the Arab Gulf.

The committee also warned against the dangers of the U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean, as well as the threat brought about by such a presence to the freedom of air and naval movement, the safety of civilian passengers, and to international commercial routes.

The committee stated that Libyan Arab aircraft and ships, as well as other means of international transportation, have been exposed to danger more than once because of the U.S. presence in the Mediterranean.

The crime committed by the United States in the Arab Gulf is proof of the perils caused by the U.S. presence in the Arab Gulf and the Mediterranean.

The committee also drew attention to the seriousness of hostile U.S. practices, which are contrary to all international norms and charters, and to the danger of these practices to the life of civilians.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison called on all states and on international and regional organizations to do everything possible to remove these dangers and to work for the withdrawal of U.S. fleets from the Mediterranean and the Arab Gulf so that this disaster may not be repeated in the future and so that the Mediterranean and the Arab Gulf areas become areas of security, cooperation, and peace, in accordance with resolutions of the United Nations and its international institutions, and in harmony with the will and aspirations of the peoples of the area.

The doyen of the diplomatic corps in the Great Jamahiriyah expressed the appreciation and thanks of the heads of the diplomatic missions for the initiative of the Great Jamahiriyah in conveying to them the great importance of this question. He affirmed that the heads of missions would convey to their governments what had been conveyed to them.

Envoys in Lebanon To Withdraw in Protest

LD0507141388 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] JANA has learned that orders have been issued to the Libyan Arab liaison officers to return to the Great Jamahiriyah as a protest against the breaking of the cease-fire agreements between the Palestinian brothers at the Beirut camps.

The agency also has learned that this decision was made in light of the Great Jamahiriyah's realization that there are signs of a scheme of which it does not want to be part in any way. It is regrettable that the Palestinian children are being made the targets in this fighting and that they are at the forefront of those who are paying the price for what is happening there.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Algeria's Messaadia

LD0207123188 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Rabat 2 Jul (MAP)—King Hassan II received Friday evening in Rabat Mr. Cherif Messaadia, Politbureau member of the Algerian ruling National Liberation Front and head of its Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat.

After the audience, King Hassan offered a dinner banquet in honor of the Algerian president's envoy.

The dinner was attended by Premier Minister Azzeddine Laraki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, Minister of the Interior and of Information Driss Basri, adviser to the king Ahmed Reda Guedira, Moroccan ambassador to Algeria Abdellatif Berbich.

In a dispatch from Algiers, the Algerian news agency APS announced that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid had received Messaadia on Thursday before his departure for Morocco with a message from Bendjedid to King Hassan.

King Hassan Receives Jordanian Minister

JN0407201288 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] King Hassan of Morocco today received a message from His Majesty King Husayn. The message was conveyed to the Moroccan monarch by Foreign Minister

Tahir al-Masri at a meeting in Rabat. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Arab region and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and other Moroccan officials.

In a separate meeting, Mr al-Masri discussed with the Moroccan foreign minister the situation in the region and bilateral ties.

Laraki Receives Tunisian Economy Minister

LD0507091688 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki received Tunisian Economy Minister Slaheddine Ben Mbarek at the premiership this morning. On this occasion, the Tunisian minister briefed the prime minister on his talks with Moroccan officials, which focused on following up the decision adopted during Dr Azzedine Laraki's visit to Tunisia at the beginning of last February.

The prime minister and the Tunisian visitor expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved, especially in the field of trade, which has witnessed a significant development toward the objective of $100 million per year before 1989. He pointed out the need to continue this cooperation in order to strengthen integration between the two countries and give this integration a Maghrebian perspective within the framework of efforts to build the greater Arab Maghreb. The meeting was attended by Zouhir Chelli, Tunisia's ambassador in Rabat, and by close aides of the prime minister.

Sudan

Government Reacts to Downing of Iranian Airbus

JN0507145088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jul (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry issued a statement today announcing that Sudan had received with deep sorrow the news of the regrettable incident of the downing of the Iranian Airbus which resulted in the death of many innocent civilians.

The statement said that the Sudanese Government and people convey their condolences to the families of the victims and regret this tragic incident.

The statement condemned any military action against civilian targets and the death of innocent people that result from such actions. The statement called on the warring parties in the Gulf and on the international community to double their efforts to end this destructive war, and to work toward removing the dangers that engulf the region.

The U.S. Navy in the Gulf downed the Iranian Airbus the day before yesterday. As a result of this incident, the 298 passengers and crew members were killed.

Minister Condemns Incident

JN0507184588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jul (SUNA)—Professor 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of information and education and official government spokesman, described the incident of the Iranian civilian airplane downed by the U.S. fleet in the Gulf recently as a totally unjustified act, resulting in a disaster which has shaken the conscience of humanity. He added that the excuses given by the United States do not absolve it of its responsibilities, considering that the plane was a civilian plane and the passengers on it were civilian pasengers consisting of women, children, and old people.

The minister, commenting on the act, said here today that the U.S. ground, air, and marine control devices in the region, could not err in identifying the identity of the plane. He said: We condemn such an inhuman act and Iran's punishment for its stands toward the U.S. Government should not come in an act against innocent Iranian and non-Iranian citizens.

The minister added: The United States, with all its official and unofficial means, strongly opposed similar acts committed by other countries in the past and mobilized the world and mankind against those countries. But Washington. due to its negligence, has committed the same crime. The catastrophe is too big to be dismissed with a mere appology from the U.S..

The spokesman called on all international bodies to work toward ending the Iran-Iraq war, the results of which still threaten the whole world with disastrous catastrophes.

'International Initiatives' for South Fail

JN0507112488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1028 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 5 (SUNA) The government will reconsider the international initiatives, aimed at solving the southern Sudan question, Minister of Culture and Information 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad announced.

The government official spokesman told the daily AL-USBU' issued here today that the Sudanese Government will seek new alternatives saying the said initiatives had failed in finding a soluion ot the southern question.

"The Government will not depend on international initiatives" 'Abdallah told the paper, confirming that it has prepared a draft comprising all documents and agreement on the problem of the south to be studied by the concerned authorities.

Defense Minister on Foreigners, Operations

JN0607111688 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1036 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Jul (SUNA)—Defense Minister 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil has said that the presence of refugees in Sudan poses a threat to national security and that certain measures should be taken to control them. He announced that the National Defense Council has issued instructions to the security authorities to restrict the movements of foreigners.

Speaking before the Constituent Assembly yesterday, the minister added that the National Defense Council is aware of the details of the security situation in eastern Sudan along the borders with Ethiopia. He said the council issued instructions to the Armed Forces to ban any movements of rebels to protect farmers in the Blue Nile area. He pointed out that the Armed Forces are carrying out military operations in southern Kordofan.

The minister added that there is a plan to dissolve the armed militias in a number of regions in accordance with a decision by the national accord government. He explained that the Defense Ministry's support for Anya Nya II militias is due to their rejection of the military and political proposals of John Garang, their admittance that he is a rebel and should be renounced by society, and their assistance to the Armed Forces in protecting relief material sent to citizens in the southern part of the country, a fact that spares the Armed Forces' efforts.

Foreign Minister on Foreign, Domestic Issues

JN0407101088 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jul 88 p 11

[Excerpts] Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Sulayman Abu Salih has said that the great crisis in Africa with regard to debts, which are accumulating each year, as well as with regard to high interest rates, requires a big effort by all African states.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD, the Sudanese foreign minister said that at this stage a dialogue is necessary between the African states together and the creditor states. He added that this dialogue should not take the form of confrontation so that the African states can stand on their own feet. He said: However, this does not rule out individual initiatives in this regard.

The Sudanese foreign minister noted the importance of cooperation among the Nile Basin littoral states, or the ANDOGO [expansion unknown] to find some sort of participation system to exploit and benefit from the Nile waters in the various fields. He added that development and integral projects of the Nile Basin littoral states will have positive effects on all Africa.

On the situation between Sudan and Ethiopia, Dr Abu Salih said that in the past there had been a kind of conflict between the two states which had led to a coolness in relations between them. He added that we have now made a large strides toward normal relations, particularly after the meeting in Addis Ababa between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam in connection with the OAU summit.

He said that the entire world has realized that violence is not the best way to resolve problems. Peaceful solutions can be reached through sitting down at the negotiating table, he added. The Sudanese foreign minister also said that the meeting in Kampala between President Mengistu and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the meetings at the foreign minister level, and the technical meeting, defined the extensive discussion of the problems between the two countries and created an atmosphere of seriousness and honesty in the search for a a peaceful solution. And this is what we always hope.

He added that the good intentions of the two sides were represented in stopping hostile propaganda and in treating the citizens of the two sides in an appropriate and acceptable way. And this is a clearing of atmosphere between the two sides, he said. [passage omitted]

On the border dispute between Libya ands Chad, Dr Abu Salih said that Sudan's good relations with both countries qualify it to play a reconciliatory role between Tripoli and Ndjamena. He affirmed that Sudan does not allow any one to use its territory to interfere in any dispute of this kind. He said that the borders are large and the tribes in Darfur are common [among these states]. However, in principle, we do not allow any involvement in this dispute or the use of our territory for any military purpose. This is considered a complete bias toward one party of the conflict, Abu Salih added.

On Sudanese mediation between Libya and Egypt, the Sudanese foreign minister affirmed that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is embarking on an active role in this regard. He asserted that Sudan believes in the need to hold a meeting between brothers in the two countries. Regarding the situation in southern Sudan, Abu Salih said: The present government represents the overwhelming majority of the Sudanese people through the various parties—the Al-Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the National Islamic Front, some southern parties, and the Sudanese National Party—that represent more than 90 percent of the Sudanese people. He said: We believe there is no justification for fighting in southern Sudan. There is no truth in the claims that there is an attempt to impose Arab or Muslim hegemony over southern Sudan, and that is demonstrated by the government granting autonomy to the south.

Abu Salih added: We have called for a peaceful settlement, and we also called for dialogue. He said that if John Garang and Sudanese problems were left to the Sudanese, they would be able to solve them.

Abu Salih continued: We now believe there is still a favorable opportunity for a peaceful solution, particularly as we are coordinating our efforts and relations and putting forward our views. We hope that Garang will respond to reason and listen to what the Sudanese people want. He added: Although we view it as a rebel movement, we view Garang as a Sudanese. The people in southern Sudan of all religions are participating in the government. We must all agree on working for Sudan and sit down and discuss religion, sovereignty, Arab identity, and wealth. Sudan still needs construction, mining, agriculture, and industry.

I do not believe we must now differ over dividing wealth or power. We must all work together for development and construction under the democratic system and freedoms that exist in the country. There can be no restrictions on the freedom of belief, thought, or speech. We believe it is high time for Garang to come to his senses and it is time for us to sit down together and consolidate the pillars of Sudan. I would like to add that 2 million southerners have taken refuge in the north as a result of hostilities in the south.

With regard to normalization of relations with Ethiopia and whether these relations will have an effect on what is taking place in the south, Abu Salih said: We hope so, and we hope that the entire issue will be tackled within the framework of a united Sudan.

With regard to the differences in the Ethiopian-Sudanese joint committees, Abu Salih said: Such issues are left to the technical committees. A solution will be drawn up when the whole issue is studied.

Referring to the economic situation in Sudan, the foreign minister said: The drought problem has greatly affected the economic situation in the country, particularly agriculture. Sudan depends a great deal on agriculture. Debts also play a major role in Sudan's economic difficulties. Abu Salih noted: The debts are not the problem. It is the accumulating compound interest which is the problem. It is a problem that has to be solved.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Abu Salih said: As a result of our agreement with the creditor countries and our cooperation with the World Bank and with the brothers in the Arab states, we have drawn up a program which we hope will succeed. It is the 4-year salvation program.

Abu Salih added: The program is a program of salvation and reform, a program for the reconstruction of Sudan. [passage omitted]

Intra-Gulf

Iranian Speedboats Attack Danish Supertanker

JN0307073888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0704 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Iranian speedboats attacked a Danish supertanker near the Hormuz Strait in the Arabian Gulf last night. REUTER cites shipping sources in Dubayy as saying that the Iranian speedboats fired two missiles on the 337,700-tonne tanker ("Karema Manset") 35 miles north of Dubayy, but that the tanker sustained no damage. Iranian speedboats had attacked this tanker twice, first in December 1987 and again in March.

Kuwait

U.S. Attitude Over Airbus Incident Criticized

LD0607091388 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 6 (KUNA)—Two Kuwaiti newspapers said Wednesday the American shooting down of an Iranian civilian plane over the Arabian Gulf on Sunday should be blamed on the real cause of the heightened regional tensions, the Iran-Iraq war.

"The real cause of the disaster, we still maintain, is the mad war that has been raging for eight agonising years," commented English language daily KUWAIT TIMES.

The paper warned that subordinate issues are taking hold of emotions and clouding the paramount ones such as the central issue of the need to terminate the ruinous conflict.

"And herein may lie the anger of more and bigger tragedies than what happened over the Gulf last Sunday," KUWAIT TIMES said.

But the paper added that "the U.S. would be dangerously in error if it thought that there was nothing left for it to do to assuage the trauma the grief-stricken Iranians are wading through."

It added that U.S. President Ronald Reagan must realise that the tragedy remains for most of the world very largely unendurable. And the bereaved do need to be consoled. Washington has so far done precious little to show it shares the distress," [quotation marks as received] the paper went on.

The daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, meanwhile, expressed hopes that Iran would find in the tragedy a strong justification for ending its recalcitrant prosecution of the war against Iraq.

The paper said the disaster causes grief and sorrow and lends urgency to the need for peace in this region that has been torn by eight years of hostilities between two neighboring Muslim countries.

"We as Arab Gulf states are genuinely interested in peace and security and are dutybound to press for an end to this predicament because the flying sparks of the conflict are clouding the skies over our region," the newspaper went on.

And the paper advised the Iranian leadership against vengeance against a major power like the U.S., saying it would breed a spiral of reprisals that would claim more civilian lives.

Concluding, the paper expressed fear that the Gulf area would turn into an arena where hostile parties settle their scores.

Qatar

WAKH Cites Papers on Downing of Iranian Plane

JN0507170488 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Manama, July 5 (GNA)—Qatari daily AL-SHARQ said that the downing of the Iranian airliner underscored the need for the world community to harness efforts to end this destructive war which had already taken a devastating toll of the human and material resources of the two Islamic nations.

The paper warned against the grave repercussions that could ensue on innocent civilians if the war spread, noting that the only beneficiaries from the conflict were the enemies of Islam.

Another Qatari daily AL-'ARAB called for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war which harms the stability and security of the region.

The newspaper said the potentials of both warring nations should be preserved to face the Zionist danger.

Developments of the war and the shooting down of the Iranian civilian airliner made it necessary that all parties should cooperate to end the war and prevent its expansion, AL-'ARAB added.

The American Navy's action in the Gulf is unacceptable and is a violation of international rules and agreements, AL-'ARAB said.

Commenting on the shooting down of the Iranian civilian airliner, two UAE newspapers called for an immediate end to this destructive war which is exhausting the human and economic potentials of the two warring states.

AL-ITTIHAD newspaper of Abu Dhabi in its editorial recalled what President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has said on many occasions before this incident that—[no open quote as received] war can not end war and fire can only be extinguished by water and not by fire."

"The foreign presence in the Gulf is neither in the interest of the Arabs nor of the world but for the benefit of the superpowers who intend to double their lots in the Gulf," AL-ITTIHAD said.

Another UAE newspaper AL-WAHDAH, pointed out that the tragic incident which led to the downing of the Iranian civilian airliner on Sunday came to add a new dimension to the current destabilization and tension in the Gulf region resulting from the continuing Iraq-Iran war. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

AL-ITTIHAD Views Downing of Iranian Plane

JN0507164488 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 4 Jul 88 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] What happened over the Gulf waters yesterday is a real tragedy that ended the lives of 290 civilians of various nationalities. However, it is high time to see this tragedy open our eyes to the bitter truth; namely, that these victims lost their lives because of the Iraq-Iran war which has been continuing for approximately 8 years. Here, the identity of the missile used to down the plane is a secondary issue.

The bitter truth also stipulates that it would be in the interests of the two countries' peoples, of the region's peoples, and of world peace to respond favorably to peace calls and to end this crazy and senseless war for which the peoples of the two neighboring Muslim countries have paid a very heavy price.

What happend yesterday is a painful catastrophe regardless of the party responsible. What is frightening about this catastrophe is that it, God forbid, might be repeated due to a transient incident. This might elicit reprisal attacks that might be met by a more violent response. Then, the arena of confrontation could expand.

Such a development would help enlarge the river of blood with the ensuing results whose manifestation might be the pointless death of more hundreds of victims to serve no cause at all. Many unpredictable probabilities come to mind on this occasion.

In light of what happened yesterday, all parties must realize that the unanimously-adopted UN Security Council Resolution No 598 is the key to ending the almost 8-year-old Iraq-Iran war which has dissipated the two countries' human, military, and economic resources. Besides, it has also allowed the fleets of the big powers to come to the Gulf which we have always sought to see as an oasis of peace and stability.

This war has turned the Gulf into an operation theater, a fertile ground for the fleets of countries which are far from it, and a hotbed of tension that threatens to bring about a spillover of the fighting.

Peace is the beginning and the end and the only way to prevent a recurrence of yesterday's catastrophe.

Yemen Arab Republic

Parliamentary General Elections End 5 Jul

JN0607065288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Free and direct elections by secret ballot throughout the country's governorates and the capital ended at 1800 on 5 July. The elections were held to elect members of the Consultative Assembly [Majlis al-Shura] in the biggest parliamentary general elections in the contemporary history of our country.

Yesterday, Tuesday 5 July 1988, was a memorable and historic day in the life of the Yemeni masses in which magnificent forms of democracy were demonstrated together with sincerity and loyalty to the goals of the immortal 26 September revolution and the National Charter.

Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih cast his vote in Ta'izz together with other citizens in Constituency No 65 at Election Center No 1000.

In a statement he expressed his great pleasure and satisfaction at the participation of his brothers the great Yemeni people in casting their votes in the election of the people's representatives to the Consultative Assembly on a historic day in the democratic life of our country.

The brother leader also expressed his joy and gratitude for the enthusiasm shown by citizens in going to election centers to exercise their right freely, democratically, responsibly, and honestly.

In conclusion President Salih wished our people success.

The brother leader then made an inspection visit to the district of Al-Hujariyah to acquaint himself with the progress of the elections and to see first hand the citizen's exercise of his legitimate voting rights with complete freedom.

In a statement to the television, the brother leader expressed his pleasure and the pleasure of our people on this historic day which is no less important than the day

in which our people became free of the defunct imamate regime and surged forward toward progress, prosperity, and the development of man.

The brother leader said: This day is a day of democracy in which the people elect their representatives to the Consultative Assembly in implementation of the principles and goals of the great 26 September Revolution. The brother leader praised the enthusiasm and responsiveness of brother citizens in electing their representatives to the Constituent Assembly.

In conclusion he thanked all the brothers working in the committees charged with implementing the last stage of the general elections.

UN Informed of Iranian Chemical Attack

JN0607091688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] UN, 6 Jul (INA)—Iraq has requested the UN secretary general to send a team of experts to Baghdad to examine a number of Iraqi soldiers, who were taken to hospitals last Friday for treatment. They were the target of a recent Iranian chemical attack. In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today, Friday [as received], 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's representative at the United Nations, informed the Security Council that the Iranian forces used chemical weapons once again in the military operations sector. He said that a number of Iraqi soldiers sustained serious wounds as a result of the Iranian chemical attack and that they are being treated in the hospitals.

The Iraqi letter says that Iran carried out a similar chemical attack on 20 June. It also points out that the Iraqi forces found a chemical weapons depot used by the Iranian forces against the Iraqi forces in one of the military operations sectors on the battlefront. The depot was found after the Iraqi forces launched a successful attack against the Iranian forces and compelled them to withdraw.

The Iraqi letter also urged the UN secretary general to send the team to examine the wounded Iraqis and to acquaint itself with the nature of their wounds and the type of the Iranian chemical weapons used by Iran against the Iraqi forces.

Egyptian Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive

JN0507103288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA)—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi arrived here today at the head of a high-level delegation comprising 10 ministers on a 3-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Cairo, Sidqi said he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn on the situation in the Arab region and bilateral relations.

During the visit, Dr 'Atif Sidqi will lead the Egyptian side to the meetings of the first session of the higher joint committee for cooperation between Iraq and Egypt.

The Egyptian prime minister was received by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; and a number of senior Iraqi officials.

Sidqi told the INA correspondent in Cairo that his visit to Iraq will be a step toward further promoting relations whose bases were laid down by Presidents Saddam Husayn and Husni Mubarak. He expressed the hope that the meetings of the first session of the higher Iraqi-Egyptian committee will achieve its objectives of promoting bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, trade, industrial, agricultural, information, cultural, scientific, health, and educational fields. He stressed that Egypt places its potential at the disposal of Iraq in the process of rehabilitation after the stupid war which the Iranian rulers insist on continuing against Iraq contrary to logic, right, and justice.

The delegation accompanying Dr 'Atif Sidqi includes Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman, transport, communications, and maritime transport minister; Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and new societies; Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim, minister of state for war production; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Zaki Badr, minister of interior; 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq Salih, minister of manpower and training; Dr 'Adil 'Abd al-Hamid 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research; Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism; and a number of officials.

The Egyptian prime minister and his delegation were seen off by the Iraqi ambassador in Cairo, Samir 'Abd al-'Aziz Najm.

The meetings of the first session of the higher Iraqi-Egyptian committee will begin here later today.

Ramadan's Welcoming Statement

JN0507134888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has said that he is carrying a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn. He added that the message includes all signs of confidence in the future of Egyptian-Iraqi relations.

In a statement to journalists upon arrival here today, Sidqi added that Egypt is confident that Iraq will emerge victorious from its current battle, and that every Egyptian citizen wishes victory to Iraq and its leadership. He stressed that the higher joint committee between Iraq and Egypt will manage to further promote bilateral relations in the economic, trade, cultural, and other fields in a manner that is commensurate with the deep-rooted relations between the two countries.

Dr Sidqi said that Iraq's victories on the battlefronts are considered a source of pride to all Arabs in general, and to Egypt in particular. He added that these victories are also considered a natural step on the road to peace by making the other side lose hope in achieving any military victory. He said that any objective observer should realize that negotiations, resorting to reason, and securing all peace prospects in the region with the objective of reinforcing world peace, and not fighting, constitute the road to peace. He said that Iraq has spared no effort to

prove its good intentions to achieve a comprehensive, just peace. He said that the other side should know that this is the best means to achieve peace.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, said in a similar statement that Iraqi-Egyptian relations have a historic background and a special significance that makes us optimistic. He added that the road is paved between Iraq and Egypt to promote bilateral relations without difficulty, that Iraqi-Egyptian relations are developed relations, and that the summit that was held between President Saddam Husayn and President Husni Mubarak last June gave instructions to achieve the maximum level of cooperation possible.

He stressed that the work of the higher joint committee will further organize Iraqi-Egyptian relations on more eternal bases. He said that the committee will discuss all aspects of cooperation, regional affairs, and all issues of common interest.

Sidqi is accompanied by a delegation comprising 10 ministers.

Egyptian Economy, Trade Minister Arrives

JN0407085888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, arrived here last night to participate in the meetings of the Iraqi-Egyptian joint committee for economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation to begin later. The joint committee yesterday began preparatory meetings on the level of the technical committees.

Received by Al-Rawi

JN0407201488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—Muhammad Mahdi Salih al-Rawi, Iraqi trade minister, met here today with Dr Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade and head of the Egyptian side in the Iraqi-Egyptian joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations in the economic and trade fields and ways to promote them in order to serve the interests of both countries.

Iranian Opposition Lists Captured Materiel

JN0207091388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—The Iranian National Liberation Armmy [INLA] today announced the details of the items seized by its forces in the Al-Thurayya al-Kubra operations to liberate Mehran. The INLA added that moving the items seized to the rear lines has continued. Radio Mojahed, the organ of the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, said in a Persian-language broadcast that these items include 45 tanks, consisting of 34 Chieftains, 9 Scorpions, and 2 T-54's; 38 personnel carriers; 166 155-, 130-, 105-, and 16-mm guns; and Katyusha launchers.

The INLA added that its forces also seized 2 Tow missiles, 7 SAM missiles, 2 air defense radars, 14 air defense guns, tank ammunition, 120 different mortars, and 254 machineguns. The INLA forces also seized equipment, machinery, and heavy equipment such as trailers, bulldozers, tractors, fuel tankers, and generators. This is in addition to 53 jeeps, 30 buses, 23 trucks, 14 ambulances, 20 motorcycles, 370 pieces of monitoring equipment, communications equipment, and light weapons, including hundreds of pistols and light rifles.

The INLA launched a heroic offensive on Mehran on 17 June. Mehran and the heights surrounding it were liberated after ferocious battles.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,245

JN0507163988 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,245 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The combat activities of our valiant Armed Forces for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our Air Force carried out successful raids against enemy troops in the operation theaters. They inflicted significant losses on our country's enemies. To inflict these losses, our planes carried out 85 combat missions. Having flown this number of missions, our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. Our helicopter gunships carried out 100 combat sorties to attack the scoundrel concentrations and their equipment. They inflicted further losses on the aggressors. Then, they returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. Five scoundrels were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector. Besides, two positions of various types, and one SPG-9 gun were destroyed; and five others were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. One shovel [preceding word in English] was set ablaze and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Furthermore, seven enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 July 1988

Communique No 3,246

JN0507184088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1743 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,246 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O you proud Iraqis, O you sons of our heroic Armed Forces, O you brothers in Arabism. Every day we score repeated victories against the backward enemy which has been insistent on the pursuit of the course of tyranny and aggression. Every day we demonstrate fearless deeds in which we purge the territory that has been desecrated by the enemies, thereby routing their remnants with the help of Almighty God and the resolve of the zealous men who act on the wise instructions given by their victorious leader, Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

The victory that we scored today was made possible by the heroic V Army Corps under the command of Staff Major General Yunus Muhammad al-Dhirib. At 0400 today [0000 GMT], the valiant Al-Mu'tasim forces under the command of Staff Brigadier General 'Abd 'Awn Ni'mah Mansur began to implement the Saif Allah [Sword of God] operation to liberate some border mountain peaks opposite the Qal'at Dizah area; namely, the height of (Balghah) with an elevation of 2,379 meters, and the height of (Dubzah) with an elevation of 2,314 meters. Our troops completed all of their tasks at 2000 today.

This fearless offensive was carried out by the courageous men of the infantry. It was supported by the valiant men of our armor units, the indefatigable men of our artillery units, the rapacious hawks of the Air Force, and the proud knights of the helicopter gunships. This offensive has been one of splendid, fearless deeds which demonstrates the Iraqi soldier's capability and his faith in the attainability of God's victory, and also in his leadership and weapons. This fearless deed also demonstrated his confidence in his courage and ability to achieve the objective wherever it may be and whenever he deems fit.

Thus, the rotten Khomeyniite heads have been harvested through the daring attacks. The only souls spared are those of the personnel who either fled the scene or were captured by our forces. The situation has been fully settled in favor of our victorious forces. Thus, developments confirm what has been reiterated by our leader to the effect that the Iranian regime's defeat is a strategic one that will be irreversible, God willing. Victory is only achievable by those who are defending right, and by those who are vindicating peace, freedom, the present and its bright prospects, and thus confronting the darkness of the past and its complexes. May God bless the proud men of the heroic V Army Corps—commanders, officers, and other ranks! God be praised, as He is the best to grant victories.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 July 1988

Helicopter Downings Denied

JN0607065788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations of two Iraqi helicopters being downed.

In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said that the Iraqi helicopters have carried out their duty and returned safely to base. The spokesman also denied the use of chemical weapons. He said that the Iranian claims are ridiculous and are being repeated by the Iranians everytime they sustain a military defeat.

The spokesman pointed out that no fighting took place in the Panjwin area. However, he said that in the Balghah and Dubzah areas, the Iraqi forces have achieved their obejectives and expelled the Iranians from these two traverses after inflicting heavy losses on them.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said that the Iraqi forces, which crushed the Iranian presence in the area, are now in full control of the situation.

Communique No 3,247

JN0607090088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0833 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,247 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O lofty Iraqis, every day you have a new victory over the enemies of God and man while you are making strides on the road to victory in defense of your country, and on the road of progress despite your enemies. Our gigantic Air Force made the following two achievements today against our criminal enemy:

1. At 0850 [0450 GMT] today, a devastating blow was dealt to the Emam Hasan oil-pumping station. Our aircraft destroyed their target and set it ablaze.

2. At 0903 today our planes carried out a violent raid on the oil-pumping stations in Gorreh. They destroyed their targets and set them ablaze.

After carrying out these two missions, all our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. These two blows are part of the great efforts of our Air Force to prevent the Iranian regime from using its oil resources for its aggressive purposes against our country, Iraq, and our Arab nation. May God bless the lofty men of our Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God for His victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 July 1988

Rabin Returns From U.S., Discusses Missiles

TA0107154688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] The defense minister says there is a dual significance to the agreement signed with the United States on the development of antiballistic missiles: The United States supports the strengthening of Israel and is aware of the increasing danger faced by Israel.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that upon his return to Israel this afternoon, Mr Rabin told reporters that the United States has information of its own concerning the surface-to-surface missiles acquired by the Arabs, and it is aware of the vast use made of chemical weapons.

Comments on U.S. Views on Arms

TA0107195788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the United States takes a very serious view of the increasing use of surface-to-surface missiles and chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war. The United States is dealing with the PRC and Saudi Arabia, trying to prevent the transfer of missiles to this region. The defense minister returned from a visit to the United States this evening. Our Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky spoke with him at Ben-Gurion Airport:

[Begin videorecording] [Rabin] The Americans are aware, as are we, of the vast use of chemical weapons, particularly in the Iran-Iraq war. They are also aware that some Arab countries have the capability of manufacturing their own chemical weapons, and of their efforts to use them with bombs, artillery shells, and in the not too distant future, with chemical warheads.

[Shlonsky] Are you referring to Syria as well as Iraq?

[Rabin] As far as we are concerned, Syria poses the main threat, but they are not the only ones. In the last 6 months, Iraq has upgraded Soviet-made Scud missiles by increasing their range from 300 km to 600-650 km, and then firing them at Tehran. This enables Iraq to fire missiles at Israel without leaving its sovereign boundaries. In addition to this, the Chinese have joined the arms race in terms of surface-to-surface missiles. This has seriously affected the Americans because it was done through Saudi Arabia, one of the countries closest to the United States, and behind their backs.

U.S. Administration leaders, from the President down, told me that they take a very serious view of these developments, and they made very pessimistic assessments about the future because these weapons, which did not exist previously, have now joined the arms race. [end videorecording]

[Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 1 July carries additional remarks made by Rabin in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles in which he says: "Contrary to the expectations of Israeli media, the uprising in the territories featured marginally in my talks with the United States. This was also reflected in the communique issued by the White House following my meeting with President Reagan. On the one hand, it expressed an understanding that in the face of violence one must answer with violence to maintain order in the territories. There are no doubts within the U.S. Administration that Israel is the government in the territories. On the other hand, they also have some misgivings, particularly about irregular events and the need to find a political solution. If you read the White House communique carefully you will find a fundamental understanding that we are the ones ruling, and we are the ones who should maintain law and order and quell violence. This position is balanced by an expressed hope that a way will be found to establish a political dialogue and to act within the laws, norms, and values the Americans see us sharing with them."]

Briefs Cabinet on U.S. Talks

TA0307103788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] At today's Cabinet session, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed his fellow ministers on his talks in Washington. The Cabinet also heard reports from the defense minister and the police affairs minister on last week's incidents in the territories and East Jerusalem. Officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office reported on growing anti-Semitism throughout the world. The Cabinet endorsed a Justice Ministry suggestion that a bill be drafted to impose stiffer penalties on people who start forest fires.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister David Levi did not come to the Cabinet session, Minister Ari'el Sharon left the meeting after approximately 90 minutes, and Minister Moshe Qatzav participated only in the first part of the meeting. Minister Moshe Arens arrived about 3 hours late.

Shamir Comments on Missile Threat, Bush Remarks

TA0507154988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister announced that Israel is making efforts to prevent certain superpowers, whose names he did not mention, from striking new long-range missile deals with Syria, Iraq, and other Arab countries. Our correspondent Tzvi Pantonovitz reports that Mr Shamir was addressing the Zionist Organization of America convention in Jerusalem. He said that the supply of such missiles, toxic gases, and other chemical weapons to Israel's enemies is a source of deep concern. Israel will have to develop means of its own to meet that

challenge. The prime minister praised U.S. Vice President George Bush's remark that a close relationship with Israel is in accordance with U.S. national defense interests.

Discusses Arab Dispute

TA0107202688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated today that the political stalemate is unacceptable to him, and that as soon as the international conference is taken off the agenda, direct negotiations with the Arab countries can begin.

Mr Shamir called for putting an end to the internal dispute in Israel since no one in the Arab world is proposing peace. The prime minister was addressing the forum for political and social deliberations named after the late Moshe Dayan. Our correspondent Hayim Plattner reports:

[Begin Shamir videorecording] These days, as in the past, but more so these days, one can clearly see that the real issue of the confrontation between the Jewish people and the Arab world is over Eretz Yisra'el, over who rules there, over an independent Jewish existence in Eretz Yisra'el. The issue deals with our very existence; it is not one of territory. This is not an argument over borders; this is not a quarrel over this or that area on the map of Eretz Yisra'el. The confrontation is over everything, over our very existence, over our independence.

This being the case, why should we argue over matters that are acceptable to all of us? I do not know of any Jew in Eretz Yisra'el who would step forward and say: Stop this nonsense, we have no rights whatsoever to Judaea, Samaria, Jerusalem, or the Golan Heights; I do not know of such a person. Well then, what is the argument all about? [end videorecording]

[Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 1 July carries additional remarks made by Shamir in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles in which he says: "I have told the Americans and the Japanese minister who visited me: Let us hold an international conference to solve the problem of the refugees in the territories to raise international funds to solve this most important humanitarian problem. From the start I said that this does not need to come from a political solution; I would not presume to make such a demand. Such a move would do away with a great deal of bitterness; it would improve the living conditions of hundreds of thousands of people who are suffering and living in intolerable conditions. So far, the Arabs have objected to this, while the Americans appreciate it very much. The secretary of state told me: I am proud that you make such a proposal. I am very pleased with your concern. However, the Americans fear that they would ultimately be the ones to foot the bill—and today that is a consideration in the United States. The Arab states could easily do that if they wanted, but they are not prepared to do so because this could be construed as easing the pressure on Israel."]

Discusses Peace Conference

TA0107140488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday claimed that while the United States taught the world a lesson in political stiffness vis-a-vis the Russians, it made many concessions to Arab demands of Israel.

While lecturing before a meeting of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Shamir said the United States has changed its original stand and has agreed to the Soviet proposal for an international conference on Mideast peace. The United States went even further and agreed to an ongoing conference empowered to intervene in substantive issues, and suggested that negotiations on a final agreement be held before the beginning of the interim period, thus negating the Camp David concept.

Shamir claimed that despite these far-reaching concessions, neither King Husayn nor the Soviets accepted the Shultz proposals, and their demands are even increasing. "It is clear that no concession on the principles of a current agreement [not further specified] necessarily lead to a new agreement if there is no partner for the talks," Shamir said.

Shamir took issue with Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state, who, in a speech before the Foreign Relations Committee, leveled criticism at Israelis who still adhere to the Camp David accords.

"I am astounded when I hear declarations that the Camp David accords are as good as dead, and that Israel's insistence on their validity is not as realistic as the Arabs' insistence on all UN resolutions," Shamir said.

Reacts to Shahaq's Comment

TA0107132488 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that Intelligence Chief Major General Amnon Shahaq did not mean to say that it is necessary to talk with the PLO. "I need not react to declarations by IDF commanders; what do I have to do with the PLO?" the prime minister wondered. Yesterday in Jerusalem, Yitzhaq Shamir answered correspondents' questions at the end of an international symposium on strategic affairs.

Shamir reacted to remarks made by the head of the General Staff's Intelligence Branch, who said there is no leadership in the territories other than the PLO. Referring to incidents in the territories, the prime minister stated that "there is no doubt that we are nearing the end of the intifada [uprising]." [passage omitted]

Another declaration Shamir made while answering a question surprised some of those present. Yitzhaq Shamir was asked about the future of the Lavi plane following the elections, and answered: "The position of the Likud regarding the Lavi is well known, and if possible, we will examine all options after the elections." [passage omitted]

Eban, Thatcher Discuss Middle East Situation

TA0107174588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Knesset Member Abba Eban today met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The talk lasted 45 minutes, and the issues discussed were the situation in the Middle East, the summit meeting in Algiers, and the policy of Jordan and the Palestinians.

After the meeting, Mr Eban said that the British prime minister had shown particular interest in the policy of the Soviet Union in the region and in the Soviet-U.S. dialogue concerning the Middle East. Mr Eban received the impression that Margaret Thatcher identifies with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' plan based on the principle of land for peace. Eban delivered to the British prime minister a private message from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres dealing with all the issues he discussed with Mrs Thatcher.

Our correspondent in London Mikha'el Elmaz reports that the extended audience given by the British prime minister to Mr Eban denotes her interest in the Middle East problem and her personal esteem for Eban.

Rabin Remarks on 'Three Directions' of Uprising

TA0507134788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Report on Defense Minister Rabin's remarks in Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, by Gil'ad Sher]

[Text] What we are dealing with today are not terrorists, noted the defense minister, but a large sector of the population. The role of terror has diminished following the residents understanding that if they resort to terrorism, they will lose the sympathetic public opinion they had acquired. Nowadays we have to deal with complex and extensive facets of violence which, nonetheless, have no organized command. The defense minister estimated that the residents' desire to dissociate themselves from the administration does not stand a chance. As to the shops' opening hours, he admitted: We have failed.

At the same time, the population is becoming increasingly dependent on the administration. Some residents have made attempts to undermine the local administration systems by establishing popular local committees which were to replace the city councils. We arrest the members of these committee, said the minister.

These are the three directions the intifada [uprising] struggle is currently taking, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin concluded, adding that the Army has managed to restrict the violence considerably, chiefly along main traffic axes.

Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the defense minister rejected the attacks directed at him by both the left and the right, as well as the demands for his resignation. He said that hearing demands from both sides, he feels at ease.

As to remarks made by senior officers: I do not know why the chief of intelligence said what he did, I assume this is what he thinks, said Rabin. The intelligence chief must be absolutely free to express his opinions and assessments. Intelligence Branch assessments, however, are not law.

He regretted the fact that the quartermaster general made public remarks regarding the IDF's procurement capability, but did not dispute his remarks.

Minister Rabin further told the committee members that in yesterday's General Staff meeting he asked the generals to show more sensitivity in these sensitive times. He did not forbid them to speak out, but asked them to focus their remarks on the IDF's activities. The defense minister also appealed to fellow politicians to leave the IDF out of political debates.

Future Prospects of 'Uprising' Viewed

TA0207060388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Leshabat supplement) in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 pp 6, 7, 18

[Article by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Intifada at a Crossroads"]

[Excerpts] Entering its 7th month, the intifada [uprising] is at a crossroads. While the "infantry" in the field—the hard core of the Al-Shabiba youth movement—is trying to keep the uprising alive, their leaders are engaged in a bitter argument over what direction the masses' energy should be channeled.

The organizations and personalities steering the intifada, both in the territories and the Palestinian diaspora, agree that the next stage must be civil disobedience. Such action, which is basically nonviolent, has a good chance of attaining political achievements because its successful implementation would remove the legitimate basis of Israel's rule over the territories.

The current bitter argument revolves around whether to pursue the present line advocating a partial, selective, and controlled separation from the Israeli authorities, or to proceed at once to launch all-out civil disobedience which would lead to a head-on confrontation with all branches of the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

The current argument between radicals and pragmatists over the question of civil disobedience is better understood in light of the fact that the actions aimed at separating the population from the Israeli authorities have not been very successful.

The ones who are pushing for all-out civil disobedience and total separation from the Israeli authorities are members of George Habash's PFLP who demand a ban on going to work in Israel, a total tax strike, a boycott of Israeli goods, and an absolute ban on any cooperation with Israeli authorities. The PFLP is also in favor of full civil disobedience.

On the other side of the fence are the members of Fatah who demand that selective civil disobedience continue until the completion of the "organization stage," at the end of which they would move to all-out civil disobedience. Being the largest organization within the PLO, Fatah knows that in the event of full civil disobedience, Israeli authorities—with the support of the Israeli public—would retaliate with drastic economic measures, and the population would turn to them for help. It is also clear to Israeli authorities that it is not in the power of either Fatah or the PLO to shoulder such a burden.

'Arafat and Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] sat down and calculated that in order to secure a minimal alternative income for 120,000 inhabitants of the territories employed in Israel and 20,000 employed by the Civilian Administration in the territories, they would need at least $600 to $700 million a year, far less than what the PLO received from the Arab tycoons in the summit meeting in Algiers. Very few people know this, but the PLO is currently experiencing financial difficulties (which does not prevent some key members from stashing handsome sums in their private pockets).

Moreover, Israel manages to lay its hands on most of the money smuggled in by banks, money changers, and foreign tourists. Other monies arriving in the territories are embezzled and pocketed by the numerous middlemen who partake in its distribution. Already, the Fatah and other PLO organizations are failing to supplement the income of those whose income has been affected by the intifada. This problem will only be magnified when 1.4 million people in the territories will have to depend on the PLO's coffers.

The Fatah and the communists supporting its pragmatic line also argue that the population is not yet ready for such an advanced stage of the uprising. They are very anxious that those who fail to withstand the Israeli counterpressure will turn their back on the intifada and its leaders and will stop obeying them.

Fatah's anxieties are shared by Mujama' leaders. This Islamic fundamentalist organization, which currently rules Gaza's streets and is not usually overly enthusiastic about cooperating with the PLO, also objects to an escalation of civil disobedience. Its charismatic leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, favors mass street activities over efforts to separate from the Israeli authorities.

Mujama' leaders have recently been doing the minimum necessary to avoid being left out of the picture. They are aware of the fact that it is mainly the PLO that benefits from everything happening today in the territories, and they are not interested in that. Hence, Mujama' tries to preserve its uniqueness by issuing its own leaflets and biding its time.

For the time being, Fatah and its cautious and pragmatic line hold the upper hand in the territories. The only joint action taken recently in anticipation of all-out civil disobedience was the establishment of local "popular committees" meant to replace the Israeli Civilian Administration and which, for the time being, are running the intifada's daily affairs. "Strike forces"—groups of thugs who are meant to impose the will of the "popular committees" on the population by force, with the help of firebombs—are being set up under the committees which are made up of members of Fatah and Palestinian leftist organizations.

Knowledgeable Palestinians claim that the radical "popular committees" and the "strike forces" affiliated with them have in some places become more prominent than the local branches of the "Unified National Command of the Uprising," but generally, the intifada's leadership continues to operate as in the past.

The leaflets signed by the "Unified National Command of the Uprising" are usually drafted by key activists of one of the large organizations within the PLO. Couriers deliver the draft to leading members of other organizations for their perusal. After they agree on the final version, the leaflet is transferred to the PLO's institutions overseas.

If the local leaders fail to agree on the text, the final decision is made by the PLO's institutions overseas. The main points of the leaflets are then slowly dictated over the terrorist radios broadcasting to the territories. The text is then transcribed and later disseminated by the local committees, sometimes verbatim and occasionally with slight alterations.

The French news agency AFP in Cyprus, and Radio Monte Carlo, which is also French owned, are usually the first foreign bodies to receive and disseminate the text of

the leaflets. Thus, even though an organized central headquarters does not actually exist, the leaflets and the orders issued through them to the men in the field are quite uniform.

The decentralized system by which the intifada is run and the leaflets are produced has one advantage for the Palestinians: It makes the work of Israel's Shin Bet very difficult. When one activist is arrested, he is replaced by the next in command. When one printing workshop is discovered, the printing of leaflets continues in other workshops who get the text from Radio Monte Carlo or Baghdad radio.

This method of running the intifada also eliminates the chances of establishing an authentic, recognized, and representative leadership in the territories with which Israel would be able to negotiate. In the absence of such a leadership, the PLO actually runs the intifada and reaps its fruit. In the absence of the leadership, the inhabitants of the territories have nobody who could, on their behalf, put into words realistic objectives which they could present as a demand to the Israeli authorities and which they could hope would serve as opening positions in negotiations.

Having said that, in its leaflets the "Unified National Command of the Uprising" has presented a list of 14 "interim objectives" (also called "urgent goals") which include: sending UN observers who would replace the Israeli Military Government, holding municipal elections under international supervision, releasing detainees, and allowing the return of deportees.

The authors of these "urgent goals" also know, however, that as long as the intifada continues there is no chance of anybody in Israel accepting them. They are meant for domestic purposes only, to show the population that the energy they have been investing is not used as ammunition in a quixotic tilting at windmills.

In the absence of definite objectives and signs of progress on the methods for the attainmentof their goals, it is very important to keep the operational framework from falling apart. Firebombs, riots, and the wave of arsons are meant to maintain the momentum of the intifada, keep it in the headlines, harass Israel, and prevent the people in the field from "falling asleep" until the time comes to exercise the next stage in full.

The executors of this policy of maintaining momentum are members of the Al-Shabiba youth movement's hard core: the relatively few youngsters, usually members of terrorist organizations, who are guided by terrorists released from Israeli prisons or "graduates" of detention camps. The latter went through a fertile process of exchanging views and gaining experience and knowledge behind Israeli prison bars and barbed wire. They are now putting this knowledge to use in the field.

This highly motivated hard core is well versed in the IDF's working methods. They know by heart the Israeli "price list" for each and every act of violence. That is why its members are so selective. In contrast with the thousands of inflamed people who at the beginning of the intifada indiscriminately attacked IDF units every day, current disturbances at most involve a few dozen youngsters, and then only on memorial days and other occasions stipulated in the leaflets. They avoid friction in sites where the IDF and the police have massed large forces, as was evident this week on the anniversary of the annexation of Jerusalem.

The current level of performance of the activists is very high, and they are more daring in selecting the targets for their attacks. There is hardly any stonethrowing just for the sake of it; ambushes are for the most part carefully planned, including alternative positions and retreat routes. This is the reason for the rise in the number of Israeli casualties in the territories, despite the fact that the number of attempted murders in the last 1 and ½ months has not increased significantly and the number of stone and firebomb throwing incidents has declined steeply. [passage omitted]

Some 154 Arabs have been killed by IDF gunfire since the beginning the intifada: 100 in Judaea and Samaria, 54 in Gaza. There have been 40 cases in which bombs were planted, and 787 cases in which firebombs were thrown. From 9 December 1987 until 9 June 1988 some 8,362 Arabs were detained and 20 were deported to Lebanon. Currently, 5,300 inhabitants of the territories are held in lock-up installations, 2,500 of them are administrative detainees, 34 houses have been demolished, 1 IDF soldier has been killed, and 1 Israeli civilian has been killed (the girl killed in Bayta). In the last 3 months there were 722 fires. Some 153,222 dunums were destroyed by the fires: 95,897 dunums of grazing land and open field, 48,449 dunums of natural forests, 8,876 dunums of cultivated forests.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Mordekhay on Measures in Gaza

TA0107204988 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the IDF's Southern Command, by Dani Levi; date, place not given—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Mordekhay] There have been attempts to set up local committees, or "popular committees" as they are called in the local jargon. As far as we are concerned, these committees are illegal and we are fighting them and will continue to fight them with all our might. I hereby warn the population that it is forbidden to cooperate with these committes. If there are people wishing to become leaders, they should introduce themselves to the

public and establish contact with the authorities. We will gladly establish working relations with them for the well-being of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip.

[Levi] How do you view the use of explosives and the increase in the number of terrorist squads in the area?

[Mordekhay] All in all, I do not think there has been an increase in terrorist activities in the area. There are attempts to organize terrorist groups, and there are weapons available. We will continue to fight to the bitter end any attempt whatsoever to revert to the use of firearms. Anyone reverting to the use of firearms should know that they will be pursued relentlessly and dealt with mercilessly.

[Levi] Maj Gen Mordekhay, what action do you plan to take in the near future to calm the population?

[Mordekhay] Next week I intend to release dozens of prisoners and detainees, including administrative detainees, particularly from locations where quiet and security has been maintained, and life has returned to normal. I would like to make it absolutely clear that reports stating that there will be reprisals as soon as quiet is restored are totally unfounded. There will be no reprisals made by authorities. On the contrary, the authorities will look for every possible way to alleviate the pressure, as was the case with the schools—to wit, the matriculation exams held in the Gaza Strip recently.

They will encourage students who are getting an education and may become the future leaders of the local population. We will fight the black market to keep in from competing with ordinary businesses and the economic infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. Of course, we will continue to uphold law, order, and rule, and at the same time show restraint and respect toward the inhabitants. There will be no reprisals whatsoever; there will be no hard feelings as a result of the uprising.

Infiltration Attempts Increase

TA0307094888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The uprising in the territories has led to more attempts by the terrorists to infiltrate into the security strip in southern Lebanon. The above was stated by Brigadier General David Agmon, who completed his term as commander of the liaison unit with southern Lebanon last week. Here is an excerpt of his remarks:

[Begin Agmon recording] One of the effects of the intifada [uprising] has been a rise in the attempts by Palestinian squads to cross the security strip and penetrate Israeli territory. The uprising also had one positive outcome. There is now more demand for Lebanese labor. Thus, there are currently more employees from the security strip in Israel than before. [end recording]

Peres Comments on Unrest Cost

TA0407122888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The security forces used tear gas to disperse demonstrating school children in Bethlehem. There were also disturbances in Al-Birah, Ramallah, and Tulkarm. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that tomorrow the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria will close all schools in the West Bank for 3 days.

Minister Shim'on Peres said the incidents in the territories are directly responsible for an additional 250 million shekel outlay in the Defense Ministry budget. He believes that the continuation of the unrest and the erosion of Israel's international standing threaten the economy. Therefore, the peace process must be advanced. Mr Peres was interviewed on the 3d anniversary of the Economic Plan, which was implemented while he was prime minister.

'Individual Punishment' Begins

TA0107145688 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 p 3

[Report by Avi Bnayahu, 'Ezra Aviran, Tuvya Suskind, and ITIM]

[Excerpt] The defense establishment and the IDF's top echelon have decided to revert to "individual punishment," and do away with the "collective punishment" that the defense minister had enforced over the last few months in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This decision was reached prior to Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's departure for the United States.

There are two main reasons for this decision. First, the mass riots in the territories are slowly disappearing because of the orders issued by the leaders of the intifada to revert to weapons such as knives and Molotov cocktails. Second, the defense establishment realized that "collective punishment," which by definition also affects innocent people, had broadened the circle of hatred toward the IDF and the State of Israel, and had forced "fence sitters" to participate in the protest actions.

A senior military source said that "henceforth, collective punishment will be used against a neighborhood, village, or refugee camp when there is absolute certainty that all had taken part in the violent incident or demonstration. We have not ruled out deportations, and we have set our sights on several activists," the senior military source added. [passage omitted]

West Bank Schools Closed

TA0407090088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Beginning tomorrow, the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria will close area schools for 3 days, following yesterday's disturbances. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that studies were disrupted this morning when students did not attend school.

License Plate Plan Drafted

TA0107150788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday, the head of the Civilian Administration called on Al-Birah Mayor Hasan al-Tawil, who had been stabbed near the municipal building a few weeks ago. Al-Tawil told his visitor that he feels much better and would be returning to work soon.

The Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip has drafted a revolutionary plan whereby license plates of all Arab cars would be similar to those of Israeli cars so firebomb throwers cannot distinguish between them.

There were minor disturbances in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Military sources said that a blockade remains in effect in the Al-Burayj refugee camp to enable security forces to do their job.

Arab sources said two firebombs were thrown at a police car and an IDF car in the Jabalyah refugee camp, but there were no casualties. [passage omitted]

Anti-Graffiti Campaign Started

TA0407092788 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Jul 88 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The IDF has launched an operation to have local inhabitants paint over graffiti in their villages. Arab sources claim that soldiers beat them with clubs, forcing them to paint over the graffiti. Several villagers have been hospitalized in Ramallah.

A similar operation was reported in the village of Bayt Rima in the Ramallah District. Baha' Rimawi, a local youngster, was admitted to an East Jerusalem hospital after apparently being hit in the eye by a rubber bullet. It remains unclear whether his injury is related to the anti-graffiti campaign.

In the village of Hawwarah near Nabulus, the IDF demolished the staircase in Muhammad Tawfiq's house from which stones had been hurled at soldiers.

Sermons attacking Syria for persecuting Palestinians in Lebanon were delivered yesterday in Ramallah's mosques.

Gaza Attorney Released

TA0607103288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Abu Sha'ban, vice president of the Gaza Bar Association placed under a 6-month administrative detention 2 months ago, was released yesterday at the recommendation of senior military elements.

The arrest of Attorney Abu Sha'ban caused an uproar in the territories and was condemned by various international elements. He was released after serving 3 months in prison.

Palestinians Report Casualties

TA0607090088 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 6 Jul 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zerubavel]

[Text] According to the IDF spokesman, three Palestinians were killed last week, bringing the total of Palestinians killed by IDF fire to 163. The number does not include victims of settlers' fire and other causes.

According to the authorized Israeli count, the Palestinian death toll from the beginning of the intifada until 4 July is 222.

Palestinian sources, however, report a total of 292 Palestinian dead, according to the following breakdown:

195 killed by IDF and settlers' fire.

57 killed by gas inhalation.

18 killed by beatings and electrocution.

22 killed under unclear circumstances.

Kibbutz Member Injured by Molotov Cocktail

TA0307192288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] A member of Kibbutz Nir Eliyahu was slightly injured when a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the car he was riding in on the Eyal-Qalqilyah road. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the incident occurred early this morning, but was announced only now. One of the passengers was slightly grazed when the Molotov cocktail shattered the car's front windshield.

'Procrastination' Charged in Settlers' Dealings
TA0307044088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] A senior military source has severely criticized the State Attorney's Office for procrastination in the handling of complaints against Jewish settlers in the territories. According to the source, the office is dragging out these investigations.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe cites the source as saying that in contrast, the Military Judge Advocate's Office deals more efficiently with complaints against soldiers' misdeeds in the territories. That office has recently filed charges against a soldier accused of manslaughter and two other soldiers suspected of harassing detainees.

New Settlement Inaugurated in Gaza Strip
TA0407125588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The first neighborhood in the permanent settlement of Ele Sinay was inaugurated in the northern Gaza Strip today. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar points out that until now the inhabitants have been living in temporary quarters near the permanent site.

Jewish settlement leaders called on government representatives who attended the ceremony to take immediate steps to enable the construction of three more settlements in the northern Gaza Strip. The nuclei of these settlements already exist, and the members of one, Nisanit, are living on the site.

The representative of the Construction and Housing Ministry promised to consider the Nisanit inhabitants' demand. Construction and Housing Minister David Levi, who was to have attended the ceremony, was absent because of Herut party affairs.

A new neighborhood was also inaugurated today at Neve Deqalim in the Gush Qatif region in the South Gaza Strip.

Jews Leaving Golan Over 'Economic Plight'
TA0207102188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Some 10 percent of the Jewish inhabitants of the Golan Heights are in the process of leaving the area. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht says the situation is especially grave in the northern Golan Heights where some 25 percent of the kibbutz members are leaving. The inhabitants of the region say the situation is linked to the economic plight of the agricultural settlements, and the government's inability to implement a reasonable settlement to solve their problems.

Mikha Goldman, head of the Kefar Tavor local council and an Alignment Knesset candidate, demanded that the prime minister and the vice prime minister immediately implement a special arrangement for the plateau to save the settlements there from being disbanded.

Remarks by Bush on PLO, Mideast Crisis Assailed
TA0107164088 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 30 Jun 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Bush Suffers From the Same Complex"]

[Text] One can almost predict what any U.S. presidential candidate will say, especially if these remarks are made only a few months before the elections. The statements by George Bush, U.S. vice president and Republican presidential candidate, are consistent with what we have become accustomed to.

Despite the release of the "new Palestinian document" by Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's closest aide, we observe that Bush's remarks to the JERUSALEM POST about the Middle East crisis and the U.S. stand toward the PLO contained nothing new. One would have expected otherwise from the United States after that document's release.

A quick reading of Bush's remarks clearly shows that his own position, and consequently that of the United States, is no more than a repetition of statements by Israeli leaders, as if there were no new developments. The PLO is called upon to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, renounce violence, and change its charter which calls for Israel's annihilation.

This is what the United States requires from the PLO, but what it requires from Israel is another thing. Jerusalem, for instance, must not be restored to its pre-1967 status. This, of course, is a U.S. position that applies to all of the occupied Arab lands. Bush and other U.S. officials who constantly talk about the PLO and its rejection of the aforementioned Security Council Resolutions, almost never mention Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and do not talk, for example, about the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

A characteristic ingredient of every U.S. statement, something required of any American official, is to affirm that no pressure will be exerted on Israel to moderate its position regarding the "exchange of land for peace."

After the release of the Palestinian document we had expected a more positive U.S. reaction, and a more active U.S. role in establishing peace in the Middle East. Nothing of the sort happened, however, and U.S. statements strived, as always, to gain the votes of the Jewish electorate. Hence, in his remarks, Bush ignored the international peace conference and concentrated only on the points that are acceptable to Israel.

We wish to tell Bush and others that the Palestinian people are determined to achieve their goals of freedom and dignity as well as their right to self-determination, like other peoples of the globe. The right to self-determination of any people is not decided upon by the person occupying the White House. The people who seek that right obtain it through their struggle. Bush has only to refer to history books to find examples of this.

U.S. Ruling on PLO Called 'Wise Decision'

TA0507161988 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Jul 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The U.S. Judiciary Refutes Congress' Allegations"]

[Text] The U.S. Federal Court in New York issued a ruling last Wednesday stipulating that the U.S. Government does not have the right to shut down the PLO observer mission at the United Nations. In the court's opinion, congressional resolutions against terrorism cannot invalidate the United States' commitment to the agreements it signed with the United Nations.

Despite the fact that this court ruling is not political, every Palestinian is delighted and happy about this surprise. For many years we have been accustomed to seeing U.S. political decisions which run counter to the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab nation in general.

While the Palestinian people had despaired of a fair and just U.S. policy, especially in matters involving decisions by Congress, which is known for its hostility to the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative, we must be fair and note that since the outset, the U.S. State Department has opposed Congress' decision to involve itself and, consequently, the entire United States in the affairs and inviolability of the United Nations. As for the Federal Court ruling, it is a wise decision that proves the independence of the courts and the honesty of the judiciary. While Congress' decisions are indicative of viewpoints born of self-interest and subject to foreign pressures and considerations, the verdicts of the courts are marked by an integrity long lacking in Congress.

We here in the occupied Arab territories hope that this ruling will serve as an incentive for the U.S. Administration to reassess its negative stance toward the Palestinian problem and toward the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

We hope that the decisionmakers in Washington have come to the conclusion that there can be no solution to the Middle East conflict without the PLO. Perhaps the Federal Court ruling will inspire the U.S. Administration to draw up a new formula that would enable it to talk with the legitimate representative of the Palestinians. This, in turn, will narrow the gap between Washington's words and deeds and restore to the United States the credibility it has lost in the Arab world, whereupon the parties concerned will accept it as the peacemaker in the region.

'Severe Implications' Seen in U.S.-Soviet Ties

TA0607082788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by defense reporter Kenneth Kaplan]

[Excerpts] Improving U.S.-Soviet ties and a growing body of American public opinion which demands cuts in defence spending have potentially severe implications for future military aid to Israel, a senior defence source said here yesterday.

He stressed the impact of U.S. media coverage of the internal changes in the USSR and of the improved atmosphere between the two superpowers, such as visits by Soviet delegations to American military installations and missile assembly plants. [passage omitted]

While the improved ties between the superpowers can be expected to influence American defence spending, they have had little impact on the sale of modern Soviet arms to countries in this region, the source said, citing the recent sale of additional SS21 surface-to-surface missiles to Syria. The SS21 has a range of 100 kilometres. [passage omitted]

The source said Rabin engaged in important contacts with U.S. legislators to avoid damage to Israel defence industries from American protectionists measures. If Rabin's visit to the U.S. did not achieve all of its aims, he said, it was due to the threat of cuts in U.S. defence spending, and not because of any ill-will resulting from the intifada [uprising]. [passage omitted]

No-Confidence Bid Submitted on Abu Sharif Document

TA0607100488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The Progressive List for Peace has submitted a no-confidence motion following the government's refusal to respond favorably to the peace proposal by Bassam Abu Sharif, a senior PLO official. Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari said that the proposal has the support of the Unified National Command of the Uprising and of the majority of the residents of the territories, and that Israel should therefore accept it.

AL-QUDS Views Document

TA0507182288 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Jul 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Bassam Abu Sharif's Document"]

[Text] The article published several days ago in the WASHINGTON TIMES by Bassam Abu Sharif, aide to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has

raised a storm of positive and negative reactions. Discussion of this document is still going on among Palestinians both inside the homeland and in the diaspora.

An indepth and meticulous examination of Abu Sharif's article affirms that under no circumstances does its contents contradict or contravene the resolutions of the 18th PNC convened in Algeria in April 1987, nor the resolutions of the Algiers summit held last month in the Algerian capital.

Yitzhaq Shamir, Israel's prime minister and leader of the Likud bloc, was the first to comment on Abu Sharif's article when he said: "This is merely dust thrown into people's eyes." After this we heard a series of statements by him on the timing and language of the document which did not broach its contents.

In view of the fact that the PLO has consented to the convocation of an active international conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict on an equal footing, including the PLO; that it has adopted the concept of an independent Palestinian state over all Palestinian lands occupied by Israel since 1967; and that it has adhered to its rejection of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in their present formulation because they disavow the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, particularly the right to self-determination and to choose representatives, we can say that the contents of Abu Sharif's document accurately and faithfully reflect these positions without modification, change, or distortion.

These points represent the components and pillars of the political option put forward at the 18th PNC which was adopted unanimously by the Arab leaders during the recent Algiers summit. Discussion and argument over Abu Sharif's document should be focused on our acceptance or rejection of the political option. How can we endorse and bless the resolutions of the Algiers summit and the 18th PNC, and at the same time, with the same sincerity, oppose and reject Abu Sharif's document?

The discussion aroused on the Palestinian, Arab, Israeli, and international levels over what Bassam Abu Sharif wrote evidently reflects the sensitivity of talking about a Palestinian political option and the necessity of finding a balanced equation that allows the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate national rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination. A meticulous reading of Abu Sharif's document clearly and unambiguously indicates that consideration of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights forms the basis of any discussion about the political option.

PORI Poll Conducted on Palestinians' Rights

TA0107131688 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Natan Ro'i]

[Text] Of Israel's residents, 45.5 percent treat the Palestinians as people with rights. This emerges from a PORI [Public Opinion Research in Israel] public opinion poll conducted at the request of Sulayman Shaqur, editor of MAQOR RISHON [FIRST SOURCE], a monthly magazine whose goal is to express the views of the inhabitants of the territories.

The monthly was issued after a license was received from the Interior Ministry. The request for a license was submitted about 2 months ago.

Of everyone polled on the Palestinians' rights, 38.8 percent said they do not view the Palestinians as people with their own rights, and 16.8 percent said "this depends on which rights are at stake."

Correction to Rabin Comments on U.S. Talks

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Rabin Comments on U.S. Talks on Missile Threat," published in the 5 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 23, column 1:

TA0207113188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Jul 88 (correcting month in sourceline)

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Amman 5 Jul
JN0507133588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Amman from Damascus this afternoon on a short visit to Jordan. He said he would convey a written message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, as part of the continuous consultations between the two leaders on the Arab situation, especially the Arabian Gulf area.

He was received at Amman Airport by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister; the Foreign Ministry secretary general and senior ministry officials; and the Kuwaiti Embassy staff in Amman.

Meets King Husayn
JN0507151388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the Al-Nadwah Palace at noon today. The Kuwaiti minister conveyed to his majesty the king a written message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The message deals with the new developments in the Arab world the assessment of the results of the Algiers summit resolutions, and the strengthening of the existing relations between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, the deputy prime minister and education minister, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the finance minister, and the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was also attended by the Kuwaiti finance minister, the head of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, and the delegation accompanying Shaykh al-Jabir.

Marwan Dudin Comments on New Israeli Measures
JN0507065488 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jul 88 pp 1, 18

[By Tal'at Shana'ah]

[Text] Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs, has told AL-DUSTUR that Jordan is studying the measures necessary to respond to Israeli plans to deprive a large number of Palestinian people of the right to live in their homeland.

Dudin was commenting on reports carried by the enemy's radio yesterday. These reports said that women of the West Bank and their children residing outside will not be allowed to return if their husbands do not hold a "family reunion" card issued by the occupation authorities. Mothers will be allowed in if they drop the names of children from their passports. Children will be allowed in only if they obtain a visiting permit and have their own Jordanian passport.

Dudin added that these measures come among a series of measures that are directed against the people of the West Bank and Gaza and that aim to dispose of the inhabitants of the land and make them mere visitors to their homeland.

Regarding his ministry's steps, he said that we are studying countermeasures to help our kinfolk there. He added that the ministry is working on two axis. The first is to increase awareness of our kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza, and the second is to study the necessary measures to respond to and foil these plans.

It is worth mentioning that the Israeli plan will affect hundreds of Palestinian citizens and will deprive them of returning to and living in their homeland.

'National Movement' Faults Abu Sharif Document
JN0307192288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] A responsible source in the parties and forces of the Jordanian national movement has made the following statement on the Bassam Abu Sharif document that recognizes the Zionist enemy:

The heroic, glorious uprising of our heroic Palestinian people is escalating with increased determination to achieve all our militant people's objectives of liberating their land and determining their fate on it. The Zionist enemy leaders are admitting the great impact of the popular uprising on the overall economic, political, and military situation in the Zionist entity.

They are also openly admitting, along with several officials of the imperialist U.S. Administration, that the revolutionary uprising in the occupied Arab territories has given the Palestine question a new dimension that cannot be ignored.

Following all these positive developments in the history of the Arab-Zionist conflict—developments that would have been unfavorable to our people and their historic right to their homeland had it not been for the huge sacrifices and the thousands of martyrs who fell for the sake of freedom, the right to self-determination, and the liberation of land—Bassam Abu Sharif, a close adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has presented a new written initiative to the imperialist U.S. Administration, the first defender of the Zionist entity and financier of the latter's military arsenal and the first enemy of our people, the world's peoples that seek freedom, and of world peace.

This dangerous document contains unconditional capitulation to the Zionist enemy and a public recognition of this entity. The United Nations, the highest world body, has considered this entity a racist entity hostile to mankind and peace. This document throws overboard all our people's sacrifices and their brave struggle for freedom and liberation. It is a humiliating relinquishment of the martyrs' blood, the sacrifices of the prisoners, and the suffering of the wounded who fall daily at the hands of the savage, racist Zionists, who are carrying out an annihilation campaign, the worst of its kind in our modern world.

The parties and forces of the [Jordanian] national movement and all our Jordanian people denounce this disgraceful, suspect behavior and vehemently condemn this criminal step, which occurred amid complete silence by the Palestinian right wing that dominates the PLO's leadership—a right wing which inflicts the gravest damage on our Palestinian people's struggle and the whole pan-Arab struggle. They appeal to all Palestinian factions that actually care for the continuation of the conflict and for safeguarding our people's struggle and huge sacrifices, to confront and foil this new treasonous step and to expose its planners and executors.

This is because it only serves the Zionist enemy and all enemies of our people and their legitimate struggle. It also grants legitimacy to the enemy. The parties and forces of the national movement also appeal to all forces and factions of the Arab national liberation movement to close ranks and discard all marginal differences to play their militant role on the front line of our Arab masses against all their enemies and support the heroic uprising in Palestine so that it will achieve its legitimate objectives of removing the occupation and liberating the land.

Victory to our brave Palestinian people. Glory and immortality to the righteous Palestinian martyrs. Ignominy and disgrace to all agents and defeatists. Defeat and retreat to the racist Zionist entity. Victory will inevitably be the lot of our Palestinian people and their militant forces.

AL-DUSTUR on 'Meagerness' of U.S. Aid

JN0407133088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jul 88 p 22

["Economic View" column: "U.S. Aid To Jordan" by Ghadah al-Fanik]

[Text] According to news reports, the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations has agreed to allocate $100 million to Jordan, including $60 million to finance U.S. military hardware (if the Israeli lobby does not object) and only $40 million for economic development aid.

The meagerness of the sum is appreciated when one knows that the same committee has agreed to appropriate $3 billion to Israel and also approved the financing of 80 percent of the cost of a U.S.-Israeli joint project to develop a new missile.

In addition to the quantitative difference, there is another difference: The aid appropriated to Israel is issued in the form of a check on the first day of the fiscal year and is paid to Israel in cash, whereas the aid to Jordan must be issued with the knowledge of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

It has occurred to some people to compare the figures that appear in U.S. statistics as annual aid to Jordan with the figures that appear in the Jordanian general budget as the actual figures of the sums received.

It has become clear that the difference is vast. The Jordanian Treasury receives only a meager amount of the U.S. aid, such as an amount designated for financing the construction of part of a road. The remainder is spent in the United States itself, or is spent as payments to U.S. consulting companies that study certain conditions of the Jordanian economy and its various sectors and draw up reports that are not read or heeded by anyone.

The U.S. Government is entitled to ask specialized U.S. bodies in the private sector to compile reports on aspects of the Jordanian economy. However, it is not permissible to record the cost of such reports as U.S. financial—economic and development—aid to Jordan.

Jordan does need financial aid from various sources to offset the deficit in its general budget and to finance its urgent economic projects. However, that does not mean the United States should give us an empty shell and consider that it has given us aid. This aid has in fact not reached us but has been spent in the United States on U.S. companies and experts just to satisfy U.S. curiosity about our most important economic problems and ways of tackling them—even though copies of such reports are supplied to us.

Most U.S. aid to Jordan does not reach Jordan. Next time the U.S. State Department issues a statement of the aid extended to various countries, including Jordan, the Ministry of Finance may find itself compelled to issue a categorical denial of untrue or exaggerated reports and figures.

Islamic Jihad Threatens To Kill U.S. Hostage

NC0507130088 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, July 5 (AFP)—A caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad organization on Tuesday threatened to kill a U.S. hostage at 8:00 p.m. (1700 GMT) Tuesday to avenge the deaths of 290 passengers aboard an Iranian airliner shot down by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf Sunday.

But analysts here did not take the threat seriously, since Islamic Jihad's previous threats have always been accompanied by photographs of the hostages. Islamic Jihad is a pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalist group.

An unidentified caller to the Sunni Voice of the Nation radio said Islamic Jihad "had decided to execute one of the two American hostages it holds at 8:00 p.m. Al-Ramlah al-Bayda'" a suburb south of Beirut. It did not specify which hostage.

The organization has claimed responsibility for the capture of ASSOCIATED PRESS regional correspondent Terry Anderson and American University of Beirut Dean of Agriculture Thomas Sutherland.

One of Lebanon's Shi'ite religious leaders, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, said late Monday that the destruction of the Iranian plane did not justify the taking of more Western hostages.

"I find no justification for the seizing of hostages who are not involved at all," he said. Shaykh Fadlallah is guide to another pro-Iranian organization, Hizballah.

Marchers Condemn Downing of Iranian Plane

NC0607063988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Telephone report by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] What right does the United States have to kill our innocent children, women, and men? This is the crushing slogan which thousands of the Muslim and oppressed people of Lebanon shouted during a spectacular march in West Beirut. The marchers condemned the recent horrific crime perpetrated by teh United States in downing a passenger plane of Islamic Iran.

The marchers set off from the Law College of the Lebanese University on Hamra Street. They carried placards condemning U.S. crimes, big pictures of the imam of the ummah and Ayatollah Montazeri, and flags of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They marched through the streets in the western part of the Lebanese capital.

The demonstrators, who were accompanied by a number of combatant clergymen, passed through various streets and gathered at the destroyed U.S. Embassy building on Jall al-Bahr Street. They shouted slogans of "Death to America," "O Reagan, know that the massacre of the passengers of the plane will not go unpunished," and "We will fight with our teeth and claws against America." They also confirmed that the anti-arrogant struggles will continue.

During this gathering, U.S. flags and then effigies of Reagan were set on fire. This was follwed by a zealous speech by one of the Hizballah clergymen, in which he condemned the tragedy of the downing of the plane and called for the unconditional withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf.

This is the second march by Lebanon's Muslim ummah in less than 24 hours. In relation to the same issue, a spectacular march was organized in the streets of Ba'labakk during which thousands of Hizballah ummah of the region strongly condemned the recent U.S. crime and called for the unconditional withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf.

Reportage on Inter-Palestinian Fighting

Libyan Withdrawal Denied

NC0507105188 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] In a contact with Voice of the People, the PFLP has denied reports stating that the Libyan observers have withdrawn from the Beirut camps. A PFLP source added that the Libyan initiative to end the camps war is under discussion. He noted that the Libyan observers are scheduled to enter the Burj al-Barajinah camp today.

Fall of Camp Called Inevitable

NC0507141588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Some 4 persons were killed and 15 others wounded in the intermittent clashes that took place between 'Arafat supporters and Fatah dissidents in the Burj al-Barajinah camp from 1800 yesterday until noon today.

According to information received by our radio, the dissidents have seized two pro-'Arafat positions in the Norwegian school and Samid establishment on the Al-Siyanah combat lines between Al-Mihaniyah and Qasr al-Mashnuq. The information adds that 27 Libyan observers have withdrawn from the Beirut camps to the mountain and Damascus because the Syrians refused the formation of a disengagement force to separate the two disputing parties under the supervision of Libyan officers. Abu Fadi Hammad, a member of the Salvation Front, had earlier rejected the recent Libyan-sponsored agreement.

Has the time come for ousting the pro-'Arafat fighters from Burj al-Barajinah camp following the seizure of Shatila by the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] group? Highly placed Palestinian sources have answered this question by expressing the view that the withdrawal of the pro-'Arafat groups from Shatila makes the downfall of the Burj al-Barajinah camp an inevitability within 15 days.

The same sources commented on the results of the first round of violent fighting yesterday, saying that the military equipment and weapons used by the dissidents enabled them to gain control over the pro-'Arafat fighters, who, in their turn, reduced the effectiveness of these weapons, but admitted that the intensity of the dissidents' fire was 10 times as much as that of theirs. In their fight with 'Arafat's Fatah, the dissidents used 160-mm and 120-mm field artillery, as well as 120-mm and 82-mm mortars and 107-mm Grad rockets. 'Arafat's supporters countered by using 82-mm and 60-mm mortars, as well as machineguns and rockets.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, arrangements for the withdrawal of 'Arafat's groups from Burj al-Barajinah are now being made through Arab contacts with Syria and the Nasirite Popular Organization, whose leader is now in Damascus for this purpose. The information adds that the withdrawal process will not last more than 15 days and that east Sidon will be proposed as the point where 'Arafat's fighters are to be assembled.

The information also says that the withdrawal decision was agreed upon between the two superpowers in order to remove the armed Palestinians from Beirut, most probably to start the process of liberating the foreign hostages in light of confirmed reports that they are safe and in Beirut's southern suburb, which will be completely surrounded following the withdrawal of 'Arafat's men from Shatila and then from Burj al-Barajinah.

The Palestinian source who has this information says that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is well aware that his departure from Shatila necessarily means that he will have to withdraw from Burj al-Barajinah and consequently from West Beirut. 'Arafat realizes that his withdrawal from these areas is different from his 1982 departure, as he will be letting the dissidents led by Abu Musa take his place under Syrian orders and a Syrian umbreila. However, the source hastens to add that the assembly of most of the PLO military cadres in East Sidon raises a question as to how Syria or Israel is going to deal with 'Arafat.

Syrian Forces Criticized

JN0507215188 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1757 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Recorded dispatch by radio correspondent]

[Text] O brothers: The war of agent dissidents, who are politically and militarily supported by the Syrian regime, continued today against the camps of our people in Beirut, particularly in Burj al-Barajinah. Artillery shells and rockets were fired from positions controlled by the army of the Syrian regime in the mountain, the Shatila vicinity, and Sport City. One shell per minute has fallen on Burj al-Barajinah since early this morning, wounding and killing many Palestinian and Lebanese civilians.

The heroic defenders of the Burj al-Barajinah camp have foiled an offensive launched by the agent dissidents against the camp this morning. After they failed to advance, the agent dissidents again bombarded Burj al-Barajinah with hundreds of artillery shells and rockets supplied to them from the depots of the Syrian regime's army.

According to our sources in Beirut, approximately 63 martyrs and wounded fell in the camp as a result of the criminal shelling by the dissidents. Palestinian military sources in Beirut have denied the claims of agent Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] about the defection of a number of our heroic fighters, who are defending the Burj al-Barajinah camp, to the mercenaries of the dissidents, who were trained in camps affiliated with the army of the Syrian regime.

With the continuation of the steadfastness of the heroic Palestinian fighters, who are defending the Burj al-Barajinah camp, their people, their revolution, and their people's presence in Lebanon, some official Arab political moves continued [words indistinct]. Some Palestinian organizations in Beirut today said that the dissidents do not want to stop the bombardment of the Palestinian camps because the Syrian regime insists on liquidating them politically and militarily and on pushing them in its game to the end.

The leaders of some Palestinian factions told us a short while ago that they might intervene militarily to confront the destructive bombardment of the Burj al-Barajinah camp by the dissidents if this bombardment continues. The destructive bombardment of the Burj al-Barajinah camp has not stopped during the past 48 hours.

Meanwhile, a Libyan miltiary delegation continues to hold contacts with Palestinian factions in Lebanon and to exert efforts to acheive a cease fire. Algerian and Kuwaiti delegations talked with a number of Syrian officials to urge them to stop the destruction of the Burj al-Barajinah camp and the massacre being perpetrated by the outlaw dissidents against the sons of the Palestinian people in Burj al-Barajinah.

All this is taking place while the Zionist enemy aircraft overfly West Beirut and the Sidon camps photographing the shells of the dissidents fired from the Syrian Army positions and falling on the Beirut camps.

The commander of the Burj al-Barajinah camp affirmed to us that what is taking place against the camp is a Syrian arrangement with the United States.

Lebanese political quarters said that the Syrian regime insists on destroying Burj al-Barajinah as soon as possible.

We have just received news that the camp is being subjected to violent artillery and rocket bombardment from the Lebanese Al-Shuf area, where the Syrian forces and agent dissidents are located.

The commander of the Burj al-Barajinah camp told us a short while ago that the morale of the fighters is on the rise and they are determined to defend the camp with all force.

400 Pro-'Arafat Fighters Leave

NC0507191788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] A Palestinian source stated tonight that contacts are continuing for the withdrawal of the rest of the pro-'Arafat fighters from Burj al-Barajinah camp. He indicated that approximately 400 pro-'Arafat fighters have laid down their arms and left the camp.

Pro-'Arafat Forces Clash

NC0607084788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Skirmishes involving the use of medium-caliber weapons have been going on in Burj al-Barajinah camp since 0945 today. A security source reported that the clashes are due to differences between 'Arafat loyalists as to who stays or leaves the camp.

Dissident Forces Advance

NC0607111888 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, July 6 (AFP)—Palestinian forces from the pro-Syrian Fatah Provisional Command (FPC) Wednesday advanced into the embattled Burj al-Barajinah refugee camp south of Beirut and took control of the western sector, sources here said.

The FPC advance into the camp, the last bastion here of rival Fatah fighters loyal to Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, caused no casualties, Palestinian sources said.

But they reported clashes with automatic weapons, rockets and mortars to secure about a quarter of the camp.

An FPC spokesman said his forces were in control of the camp's western sector "and were advancing eastwards to regain total control of Burj al-Barajinah." But a Fatah official inside the camp denied the claim.

The pro-Syrian forces deployed four vehicles mounted with heavy machineguns and recoilless artillery at the camp's entrance near the Airport Road, patrolled by Syrian troops, correspondents here said.

The camp was blocked by a metal barrier and residents took refuge in underground shelters, correspondents on the scene said.

On Wednesday Libya sought to set up an inter-Palestinian buffer force to end fighting in the Beirut camps between the rival Palestinian groups. [passage omitted]

Fatah Regains Some Positions

NC0607145688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Excerpts] This afternoon Fatah fighters regained some of the positions in the western part of Burj al-Barajinah camp they had lost a few hours earlier following an attack by Fatah-the Uprising forces.

This was announced by a Palestinian organization that is not involved in the fighting. The same source said that Fatah launched a successful counterattack and succeeded in regaining the positions in the western part of the camp which it had earlier lost. The source added that intermittent clashes involving mortar fire, recoilless artillery, and heavy machineguns are now taking place. However, in a statement to AFP, Abu al-Amjad, a Fatah-the Uprising official, has denied that Fatah has retaken some of its positions. [passage omitted]

An Al-Sa'iqah official has accused Yasir 'Arafat of starting the fighting. He warned against suspicious attempts to expand the fighting by involving other Palestinian parties.

In another development, (Mohamed al-Tahir), the personal envoy of the Algerian president, has said that he has refused an offer to mediate in an attempt to bring about the capitulation of the Fatah fighters and their withdrawal from Burj al-Barajinah. He said that Fatah-the Uprising and Marwan Faris, a representative of the Lebanese leftist parties, put this proposal to him today. (Al-Tahir) stressed Algeria's refusal to take part in the evacuation of any Palestinian fighter from Burj al-Barajinah. He added that he has asked the parties concerned to halt the battles so that he may resume his humanitarian mission, but has found no response. He stated: We support coexistence among all the Palestinians and believe that disputes should be settled through dialogue.

UN's Goulding Arrives in Beirut for Visit 4 Jul

NC0407085588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss will meet with Marrack Goulding, deputy UN secretary general for special political affairs, who arrived in Beirut this morning. Goulding will call on Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni at 1300 today.

Meets With Al-Jumayyil

NC0507104288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Following his 90-minute meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil, Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general, said: I briefed the president on the nature of my mission to Lebanon, which concerns the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate in the South. The president, Goulding added, briefed me on domestic conditions prior to the presidential elections. Goulding disclosed: I raised the issue of the continued disappearance of Lieutenant Colonel Higgins, who was kidnapped in the South last February.

Responding to a question, Goulding said that the president is still exerting his utmost efforts to secure the release of Higgins.

Asked whether the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate will be an easy task or will encounter complications, Goulding replied: At the present time, I do not see any obstacle to its renewal.

Asked what effect the repeated attacks against UNIFIL troops and the problems they have been facing, including Higgin's kidnapping, are having, Goulding asserted that despite difficulties and repeated attacks in the past few years, UNIFIL remains in its positions without being affected. Goulding said that the UN secretary general is convinced that these forces continue to perform their duty in a notably successful manner.

UNIFIL Expansion Proposed

NC0507195788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] A parliamentary source has stated that Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, has with him a plan for resolving the Lebanese crisis that has the approval of the United States, Israel, and Syria. He said that Goulding has begun presenting this plan to Lebanese leaders.

According to the source, the plan provides for expanding UNIFIL's deployment from the southern border up to Jazzin. The source said that Israel is prepared to withdraw from the area and to dissolve the South Lebanese Army if it ascertains that UNIFIL is capable of maintaining security on its northern borders.

The source concluded his statement by saying that Marrack Goulding will convey to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar the approval of the concerned parties to the plan.

Hizballah, Syrian Forces Clash; 1 Wounded

NC0507120388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports, a state of tension prevails between Hizballah and Syrian troops in the Burj al-Barajinah area, where Syrian soldiers are tightening search measures at their roadblocks and preventing people from carrying weapons. Our correspondent has reported that a Hizballah scholar and his companions have been disarmed. This led to a clash with the Syrian soldiers, during which a Hizballah gunman was wounded.

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli Urges End to Republic

NC0607082188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Hizballah official scholar Subhi al-Tufayli has called for the elimination and overthrow of the Lebanese Republic together with all of its institutions. During a demonstration organized by Hizballah in West Beirut yesterday to protest the downing of the Iranian plane in the Gulf, Al-Tufayli called for the establishment of a republic which he described as one that would only be founded on the shoulders of the people and which would be based only on Islam.

According to security sources, bullets fired during the demonstration almost disrupted it.

Amal Clashes With 'Enemy Forces,' 'Agents'

NC0607083588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] In the resisting South, a group of the Lebanese Resistance Brigades-Amal detonated an explosive charge near a patrol of enemy forces and their agents on the Rabb al-Thalathin-Markabah Road at 2200 yesterday, killing or wounding the patrol members.

At 2215 yesterday, a second group detonated an explosive charge near enemy positions at the Al-Tayyibah project, inflicting heavy casualties.

Afterwards, the enemy carried out a wide-scale raking operation, involving various automatic weapons, rockets, and helicopters in order to find the mujahidin. The search extended to the areas of Al-Tayyibah, the Al-Litani River basin, Wadi al-Hujayr, and Wadi al-Suluqi. Vehicles of the enemy and agents entered Markabah at 2300.

Fierce clashes, lasting more than 2 hours, took place there between the enemy forces on the one hand and the mujahidin and the residents on the other. The enemy suffered a number of casualties. It was learned at dawn today that the occupation forces were able to enter the town, where they carried out a wide-scale campaign of arrests against its residents. The majority of the detainees have been taken for questioning.

Al-Asad Expresses Condolences to Iranian Embassy

JN0507185988 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad asked Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to visit the Iranian Embassy in Damascus today to convey condolences in the name of the president over the disaster of the Iranian passenger plane, which was shot down by the U.S. fleet in Arabian Gulf waters. The minister asked the Iranian ambassador to convey the president's condolences to the Iranian leadership and people.

Media Reaction to Iranian Airbus Downing

U.S. Presence Condemned

JN0507130788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The crime perpetrated by the U.S. Navy in downing the Iranian civilian airliner is fresh evidence of the dangers of massing NATO military forces in the Gulf and the Mediterranean. It is further proof that Washington's claim of providing protection for civilian shipping is merely a flimsy pretext to justify its designs to impose its hegemony on strategic areas in the world.

There is no room for excuses such as that what happened was merely a mistake or misjudgment. There is no room for the claims that such criminal actions were in self-defense.

No one is threatening U.S. territory, which is thousands of miles from the Middle East and the Gulf. Indeed, it is the U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean and the Gulf waters that threatens and endangers the Arabs and peoples of the area. It embodies imperialist policy in its ugliest form, because by pursuing a policy of state terrorism the United States tries to impose its hegemony on the Arabs and on all those who confront its policy to dominate their wealth and destiny.

Statements by the U.S. Administration that its military presence in the Gulf is intended to protect shipping, oil tankers, and sea lanes quickly collapse when the United States refuses to submit to repeated international calls for the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the Mediterranean and the Gulf. Indeed, Washington has several times affirmed that it will not withdraw its warships from the Gulf even if the Iraqi regime's war against Iran ends.

The war that was kindled by the Iraqi regime was a bridge for the return of NATO fleets to the Gulf, just as the Zionist enemy's policy of expansion and aggression was and continues to be the pretext for intensifying the U.S. and NATO military presence in the Mediterranean and off Arab coasts, and just as the Israeli invasion of Lebanon served as a pretext for the landing of U.S. and multinational forces in Lebanon.

Indeed, the war was intended to destroy the resources of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and to weaken Arab capabilities by shattering various powers and removing them from the arena of confrontation against the Zionist enemy, who constitutes the principal threat to the Arabs, their land, future, and national destiny. The war aimed, among other things, to threaten and destroy the national and pan-Arab achievements attained after World War II with the evacuation of foreign colonialist forces from the Gulf. The threats posed by the U.S. fleets will increase with the continued presence of these fleets, which will play the role of the bully and the terrorist who enforces the law of the jungle on the people of the area.

The crime of hitting the Iranian civilian airliner shows the ugliness of imperialist U.S. terrorism. The Zionist enemy is practicing an uglier and bloodier racist form of such terrorism in the occupied Arab territory under U.S. protection. That terrorism, which has provoked the indignation of the world, its states and institutions, must serve as an incentive for people of the area to confront and oppose it firmly and to channel their efforts to eliminate the real causes of that terrorism—causes that stem from the U.S. military presence and the Zionist war arsenal.

U.S. and Zionist designs and goals converge in the manner declared by President Reagan, who said that U.S. policy is drawn up within the framework of the convergence of U.S. and Israeli interests in the Middle East.

Is there a greater responsibility than that of developing a regional policy to confront and foil U.S.-Zionist threats and challenges and serve the interests of the people of the region, their sovereignty, and independence free from hegemony and aggression, just as Syria has done and is constantly doing when discharging its national responsibilities?

AL-THAWRAH, AL-BA'TH Cited

JN0607063988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[text] Under the headline "The U.S. Plan and the Downing of the Iranian Plane," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Although U.S. crimes are numerous and have taken several forms, the world seems to be governed by U.S. decisionmaking. The killing of the innocent is taking place on orders from the White House while the U.S. President claims that he opposes terrorism. The United States, including its official departments and secret organs, perpetrate crimes from El Salvador to Chicago—crimes that cover the whole world—and despite this Reagan claims that he is against terrorism.

To achieve its imperialist, colonialist objectives, the arrogant, invader, fascist America has decided to ignite new regions in the world. Therefore, it perpetrated the crime of downing the civilian Iranian plane. Who knows the crimes for which the U.S. fleet is in the Gulf?

AL-BA'TH adds: The downing of the Iranian plane was premeditated and it might have brought U.S. policy closer to its objectives in the Gulf region. While the whole world has condemned the crime, which was perpetrated by the most sophisticated U.S. Navy cruisers, Israel alone has welcomed the crime and defended the Pentagon's views and pretexts. The Zionist entity's defense of the U.S. crime is sufficient to make the Arabs fear, not their surroundings, but the U.S. plans against them and against their territory, location, wealth, and existence. This crime proves that the United States has an interest in the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, because there is no U.S. presence except in unstable hotbeds.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Here there should be a unified world stand because the denunciation of the U.S. crime is insufficient, and silence over this crime is an accusation in itself, otherwise, the U.S. Administration will continue its crimes as if it rules the whole world and subjugates it to its inhuman decisionmaking.

Under the headline "A New Proof of Who Is the Terorist," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Through its bestial crime of downing a civilian Iranian plane and the killing of innocents, children and women, the United States has added a new proof of its international terrorism and proved that its acts of terorism constitute an integral part of its foreign policy. In fact, it is carrying out the most serious form of this terrorism and topping the blacklist of terrorism.

In order to conceal this terroristic policy, the United States is accustomed to branding anyone who confronts and resists official U.S. terrorism with the charge of terrorism in an attempt to carry out its aggressive and conspiratorial objectives against the peoples who aspire to achieve their freedom and independence.

Radio Holds U.S. 'Responsible'

JN0607072688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Palestine broadcast: From the "Beam of Light" program]

[Text] O brothers strugglers: The U.S. Administration cannot avoid responsibility for committing the ugly crime of downing the Iranian passenger plane over the Arabian Gulf waters by claiming that the incident was the result of an accident. If the U.S. fleet had not been plced on alert in the Arabian Gulf, the incident would not have occurred. As long as that fleet continues its presence in the Gulf, such crimes may recur at any moment against an Iranian passenger plane or other planes. Even U.S. passenger planes may become a target of the missiles of the U.S. warships as long as Washington claims that the incident occurred by mistake.

The Arabian Gulf is not only a route for oil, but also a passageway for people. It is an international junction used daily by Asians, Europeans, Africans, Australians, and Americans. As a result, the entire world will be at the mercy of the reckless U.S. Navy, which may commit other mistakes. This will reflect negatively on Iran and all the Gulf countries just as it will reflect negatively on Washington's relations with all the world's countries.

No side, except Washington's agents and its partners in the crime, can tolerate such a threat to humanity's safety and security as well as to shipping and aviation as a result of concentrating U.S. forces in the Arabian Gulf, regardless of whether the threat occurs by mistake, as Washington claims, or is premeditated.

The mistake is more dangerous than the premeditated crime, because mistake is blind and will threaten the safety of the Arabian Gulf and the entire world if it recurs,

While the United States is committing such crimes—which it claims to be mistakes—no one can rule out retaliatory operations by the victims' families or the forces that oppose such an imperialist indifference to people's lives and safety—an indifference that will further threaten the lives of innocent people. Let the United States and its allies withdraw their fleets from the Arabian Gulf and let the United States leave the Arabian Gulf and commit its mistakes in U.S. air space if it wants justification for its fleets' mistakes.

Further on Visit of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

LD0507090488 Kuwait KUNA in English 0753 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, July 5 (KUNA)—On Tuesday, Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah met here with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The meeting, which was attended by Kuwait's ambassador to Syria Ahmad al-Jasim, tackled the current Arab situation, the Gulf war and the situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

Shaykh Sabah had met yesterday with President Hafiz al-Asad and relayed a message to him from H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir on the Arab situation in general, with a special focus on the Palestinian situation in Lebanon.

The Kuwaiti ranking official is due to head for Amman later in the day to convey a similar message to King Husayn of Jordan.

Meets Al-Shar', Departs

JN0507112888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] This morning, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim also attended. Discussion during the meeting revolved around ways of bolstering relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as the Arab situation.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister left Damascus at 1130 today. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the directors of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the Kuwait ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Further on Visit of Jordanian Prime Minister

Commission Meetings Reported

JN0207122688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Damascus at noon today on a 2-day official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, during which he will head Jordan's delegation to meetings of the higher joint Jordan-Syria commission. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i and Syria's Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi then proceeded to the Prime Ministry where the first session of the higher committee was convened. The Jordanian team on the commission also includes Eng Khalid al-Haj Hasan, communications minister; Dr Hanna 'Awdah, finance minister; Raja'i al-Dajani, interior minister; Hamdi al-Tabba', industry, trade and supply minister; Dr Fayiz al-Tarawinah, state minister for Prime Ministry affairs; Husayn al-Qasim, Central Bank governor; 'Ali Ghandur, president of the Board of Directors of Royal Jordanian Airlines; Muhammad al-Saqqaf, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply; Jamil al-Nazif, director general of the Jordan-Syria company for land transport; and Tawfiq al-Shawbaki, Jordan's charge d'affaires in Damascus.

The Syrian side comprises Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Yasin Rajjah, state minister for Prime Ministry affairs; Yusuf al-Ahmad, transport minister; Dr Muhammad Harbah, interior minister; Hasssan al-Saqqa, supply and internal trade minister; 'Abd al-Rahman al-Madani, minister of irrigation; Dr Sabah Baqjaji, state minister for planning affairs; Antoine Jubran, industry minister; Khalid al-Mahayini, finance minister; Muhammad al-Sharif, Syria's Central Bank governor; and Majid Abu Salih, Syria's ambassador to Amman.

The commission's agenda includes the existing cooperation between Jordan and Syria in all fields and exploring means to develop it further in the interests of the sisterly peoples of both countries.

The prime minister left Amman this morning. [passage omitted]

Further on Talks

JN0207171688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The higher joint Syria-Jordan commission held its first round of talks this morning at the conference hall of the Prime Ministry. It was co-chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his Jordanian counterpart Zayd al-Rifa'i. [passage omitted]

At the outset of the session, the prime minister welcomed Al-Rifa'i and his delegation, stressing the profundity of the brotherly ties binding Syria and Jordan. Their bilateral relations, he added, have advanced to the required standard. He also noted that their foundations were laid by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn. Al-Zu'bi noted that these relations are growing in the best interests of Syria and Jordan and the Arab nation.

The meetings of the higher joint commission must contribute to boosting and developing of these ties further on behalf of common goals, Al-Zu'bi said.

Meanwhile, Al-Rifa'i expressed his happiness at visiting Damascus, emphasizing that the diverse relations binding the friendly countries are a source of pride.

The meeting took up general economic issues, trade exchanges, and joint ventures. A committee has been set up to study further the subjects that came up for discussion.

Commission Meetings Resume

JN0207191888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] The Higher Syria-Jordan Commission, co-chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his Jordanian counterpart Zayd al-Rifa'i, resumed its meetings this evening. Also present were the members of both delegations. The meeting took up a number of the subjects of interest to the two fraternal countries. It also reviewed the outcome of the committee activities which were set up in the first round of talks this morning on developing the economic cooperation and trade exchanges and the areas covered by the joint companies.

Al-Asad-Al-Rifa'i Meeting

JN0307131288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus—His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i in the presidential palace at noon today. Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting.

This morning, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi in the presence of Dr Salim Yasin, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs and head of the mssion of honor. Talks during the meeting dealt with issues of interest to both sides.

Meanwhile, the joint Jordanian-Syrian higher committee resumed meetings at noon today under Eng Khalid al-Haj Hasan, [Jordanian] transportation and communications minister, and Dr Salim Yasin, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, in the presence of the two sides' members. In this meeting, the committee resumed discussing the topics listed on its agenda as well as the results of the meetings held by the subcommittees.

Higher Committee Final Meeting

JN0307203688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus—The joint Jordanian-Syrian higher committee held its final session tonight under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and in the presence of the Jordanian and Syrian delegations.

The two sides continued discussing the topics of chief concern, namely how to develop all sorts of economic cooperation, expand horizons of trade exchange, and handle all issues relating to the work of joint companies in order to develop their activities and investment.

At the conclusion of the session, Al-Rifa'i and Al-Zu'bi signed the minutes of the meeting of the higher committee in the presence of the two delegations. The resolutions included the formation of subcommittees in all economic, industrial, agricultural, financial, and cultural sectors, as well as in the field of expanding trade exchange.

These committees will have the task of implementing the resolutions adopted in all fields of cooperation and coordination, following up the tasks assigned to them at all levels, and drawing up programs to be presented to the higher committee during its meeting in Amman in December.

The resolutions also included the handling of the various issues related to the development of the work of the joint Jordanian-Syrian companies. Both sides emphasized the spirit of cooperation that prevailed in the Jordanian-Syrian discussions in Damascus, which were held to promote the brotherly bonds and strengthen coordination and integration between the two brotherly countries.

Al-Rifa'i and Al-Zu'bi exchanged speeches during the final session in which they stressed eagerness to deepen the cooperation between the two brotherly countries, which is being patronized by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Khaddam Confers With PSP's Walid Junblatt

NC0507105488 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has visited Damascus and met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. PSP sources in Damascus reported that a second meeting between Junblatt and Khaddam will be held today. They added that discussions dealt with the issue of presidential elections and the camps war.

Prime Minister Receives FRG Delegation

JN0507113288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received FRG Baden-Wurttemberg Prime Minister [as heard] Lothar Spath and accompanying delegation at 0930 today. The meeting was attended by Dr Sulayman Haddad, Syrian ambassador to the FRG, and the FRG ambassador in Damascus.

The prime minister welcomed Spath and the accompanying FRG delegation. He referred to Syria's steps in the field of economic and social development and its endeavor to lay firm foundations for the agricultural and industrial improvement and to achieve a developed standard of living.

On his part, Spath expressed his thanks and extreme happiness for the hospitality accorded him and the accompanying delegation. He affirmed his country's interest in developing and strengthening relations with Syria in all fields.

Faruq al-Shar' Meets Palestinian Leaders

JN0307130688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] This morning, Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruq al-Shar' received Khalid al-Fahum, [former] PNC speaker, and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, [former] member of the PLO Executive Committee. Talks centered on the situation in the Palestinian arena.

Radio on Palestinian Infighting, Syrian Stand
JN0507074688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation:

It is indeed painful and regrettable that at the time that our people's blessed uprising in the occupied homeland is recording the most glorious chapters in the history of our national struggle, some people outside the homeland are behaving contrary to our people's interests and their uprising. For instance, they cooperate futher with the Camp David regime in Egypt—instead of condemning that regime's policy—and provoke inter-Palestinian fighting in the camps.

They announce deviationist stands such as those contained in what is known as the Abu Sharif document—whose purpose is to appease Washington, which is lavishing our Zionist enemy with aid and encouraging it to continue its aggressive expansionist policy against our people and nation. They also try to cast doubt on the stand of Arab Syria because it refuses to give them carte blanche to concede Palestinian national rights, which by virtue of common history, geography, and culture are also Syrian and Arab nationl rights.

A number of suspicious events following the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir show that the U.S. settlement policy has tools, which have not learned from the fate faced by the tools of this policy inside the occupied homeland. The assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir was aimed at eliminating the armed struggle line. The Palestinian resistance has been, and is still, called upon to play its role in supporting the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied homeland by carrying out qualitative resistance operations against the occupation.

But the hands of the conspiratorial enemies have begun tampering by trying to divert the resistance from its sacred mission by provoking infighting between the brothers. These hands are also trying to attack the base on which the Palestinian resistance depends for its steadfastness and continuity—namely, Arab Syria—by fabricting problems and telling lies. This has encouraged the Zionist enemy to intensify its repressive measures against the kinfolk inside the homeland.

Such actions, which are far removed from patriotism in substance and spirit, only benefit our enemies, who are lying in wait to harm our people and nation. In our concern to see that all the resistance's resources are dedicated to the service of our heroic people's uprising, we reaffirm that fighting the occupation is the true nationalist behavior and that carrying out and intensifying armed struggle against the enemy is the true resistance path. There is no other path.

As for those who provoke sedition and then when their fingers get burned, cry out asking Syria to protect them from the fire should learn by now that the sensible person is the one who avoids falling into a trap. The sensible person must not use the house of his father and mother as a trench against his brother, or instigate any of his sons to utter fallacies and then deny what he has done or accuse his thus instigated sons of being foolish.

Shedding Palestinian blood at the hands of Palestinians is taboo. To the Palestinian, a Palestinian house, wherever it may be, is a sanctity. It can also be said that it is impermissible for anyone to violate a national decision that has been taken unanimously. Let us help one another through our unity. Let us unite our brothers so they can help us, instead of arousing division between them over who among us deserves such help.

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Statement Condemns Airbus Downing

LD0607090588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 5, BAKHTAR—It is known that a passenger airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran on its ordinary flight on international waters in Persian Gulf was shot down on Sunday by a rocket fired from a U.S. warship, says a statement issued by BIA.

Two hundred ninety passengers and crew of the plane lost their lives as a result of this tragic incident.

The Republic of Afghanistan, from the beginning of the military tension in the Gulf indicated that deployment of the U.S. military forces and the countries not bordering the Gulf endanger security of all countries in the region. Shooting down of the Iranian passenger plane for which no justification exists made the world public witness the tragic events in the Gulf, the statement stresses.

Pointing to the U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan in spite of being a guarantor of the Geneva agreements, the statement says that USA provides all-sided grounds for the international terrorism, and as a result of this terrorism several passenger planes of Afghanistan have been crushed by the Afghan extremists firing U.S. Stinger rockets which resulted to killing of women, children and men.

While condemning shooting down of the Iranian airplane by the U.S. naval forces the people and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan urgently demand that the U.S. military forces and the countries not bordering the Gulf end their presence in the Gulf.

Further on Fighting Against Resistance Forces

Soviets Bomb Kowt-e 'Ashrow

BK0507144088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 5 (AFP)—The town of Kowt-e 'Ashrow southwest of Kabul has been heavily damaged by Soviet warplanes in bombing raids meant to punish residents for assisting Afghan rebels, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

Afghan resistance guerrillas, known as mujahidin, captured the strategic town near the Afghan capital for about 24 hours on June 23 after fierce fighting against troops of the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

The diplomats said that Kowt-e 'Ashrow had been bombed and had come under extensive artillery attack after the rebels had been driven out.

The attacks, which reportedly caused "extensive destruction" to the town in Vardak Province 30 kilometers (18 miles) from Kabul, were carried out on the orders of Soviet advisors and were particularly heavy June 28-29, they said.

According to well-placed diplomatic sources, the order to bomb Kowt-e 'Ashrow caused rancour among senior Afghan military officers who argued that "it was militarily unnecessary."

The Soviets, the sources said, wanted to use Kowt-e 'Ashrow to set an example to the mujahidin and the Afghan people.

The bombing raids were carried out "to make the point that any town which falls under mujahidin control will suffer retribution," the diplomats said.

Many residents of Kowt-e 'Ashrow have fled to Kabul or other areas under mujahidin control, they said.

The diplomats said that Kabul regime forces suffered heavy losses during the fighting for Kowt-e 'Ashrow last month. Thirty-two agents of the Kabul secret police KHAD were killed and troop casualties were even higher, they said.

The response by the Kabul regime to the attack on Kowt-e 'Ashrow was slow, the diplomats said, reflecting its "chronic manpower problem."

According to Afghan sources, the rebels captured large stocks of military equipment and other stores during their 24-hour occupation of the town.

Western diplomats said that similar retaliatory raids had been carried out in parts of western Herat Province after the mujahidin captured districts along the Iranian border last month.

Resistance sources said they feared reprisals in Mohammad Agha, an important town on the Kabul-Gardeyz highway which fell to the rebels Friday.

Mohammad Agha, in Lowgar Province near Kabul, was still in the hands of the mujahidin, a spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami rebel group said.

Diplomats said the mujahidin have told residents of Mohammad Agha to leave the area, anticipating reprisal raids.

Meanwhile, resistance sources said several leaders of the Peshawar-based rebel alliance were in Afghanistan on missions linked with the campaign to capture urban centres as Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union began pulling out its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan on May 15 under the April 14 Geneva accord.

Muhammad Yunis Khalis, a leader of a Hezb-e Eslami faction, was in eastern Nangarhar Province where he narrowly escaped death during a Soviet air raid while addressing a public meeting last week, resistance sources said.

They said he is organising fighters and galvanising the support of the local population as part of a plan to capture the provincial capital Jalalabad.

The sources said pressure on Jalalabad had increased since the Hezb-e Eslami leader arrived in the region. There have been unconfirmed reports that the resistance plan to launch a major offensive against Jalalabad next week.

Jamiyat-e Eslami chief Burhanuddin Rabbani was in Paktia Province where rebels have been putting pressure on the garrison town Khowst, the sources said.

The diplomats said guerrillas under Jamiyat commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have moved from the northeastern Panjsher Valley to Paghman town northwest of Kabul and that the local population have been warned of an attack on Qarghah.

The Afghan Army's 8th Division is based in Qarghah and observers said the operation could be costly for the mujahidin.

Diplomats also confirmed a rebel report that mujahidin had cut the road to the Pakistani border town of Towr Kham and there was fighting around the town.

The diplomats said Asadabad in Konarha Province was also under rebel pressure and may fall to the mujahidin.

Gulbuddin Commander Killed

LD0507204488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] The military section of BIA reported that Fazl Rahman, general commander of the Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar] extremist group in Ghazni Province, was killed during an armed clash with the country's security forces.

This person had been organizing and guiding the subversive activities of the Gulbuddin extremist group in Ghazni Province and was enjoying special importance among the criminal extremists in the murder of innocent inhabitants and the destruction of and setting fire to schools, mosques, and public welfare institutions.

The report adds that during combat activities carried out by the country's security forces, heavy and deadly blows were inflicted on this group, and, together with Fazl Rahman, another ringleader of the extremist group was killed.

Rebels Capture Qades in Herat

BK0607025288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have occupied another district capital, Qades, after a week's fighting. The district capital is 75 kilometers from the Soviet border. The mujahidin occupied all areas around Qades before the decisive attack on the district capital.

A report says all communist military men and civil officials were arrested and a large quantity of equipment captured. This is another district capital which the mujahidin occupied on the same day. Earlier reports stated that the mujahidin last Friday occupied Mohammad Agha, located on Kabul-Qandahar road 34 kilometers south of Kabul.

Missiles Seized in Qandahar

LD0407222588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] According to a report from Qandahar Province, the country's Armed Forces have prevented another plan by extremist elements to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in the residential areas of Qandahar city.

The Armed Forces, with the direct cooperation of the people, discovered and seized 13 surface-to-surface missiles which had been prepared for firing at residential areas in Qandahar city.

According to another report 15 antivehicle mines which were planted by extremist elements in the areas around (Balushan) to blow up civilian vehicles were discovered and dismantled with the cooperation of the people of the region.

Clashes in Konduz, Konarha

LD0407225788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] A group of criminals belonging to the Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar] extremist group using heavy and light weapons in an attempt to stop a convoy carrying foodstuffs from Konduz Province to Badakhshan Province and to loot its goods, was crushed as a result of blows by the country's Armed Forces.

A BIA military correspondent reports that the armed extremists came under attack by the country's Armed Forces in the region of Madrasah, Aliabad subdistrict, Konduz Province. As a result, (Sayyed Jamal), head of the armed men and four of his aides were killed. The aforementioned convoy continued its journey without any losses.

BIA's military section reports that yesterday armed, extremist groups fired heavy weapons at residential areas in the subdistrict of Narang, Konarha Province. As a result of this criminal action by the armed extremists, two of our compatriots were killed and a number of houses were damaged.

Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Najibullah on Policy

LD0407142088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] A message has arrived addressed to Esteemed President Najibullah from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, concerning support for the Republic of Afghanistan's political policy. Details follow:

Dr Najibullah, president of Afghanistan:

The steps you have taken concerning the release of prisoners put the seal of approval on what we have fulfilled in the Great Jamahiriyah, lend an international character to this initiative that arose in our countries, raise our moral and political authority to a respectable level, and separate us from countries where the policy of repression against people continues.

These steps prove that the allegations of the regimes and governments that boast about the defense of human rights, while practicing unjust, repressive, and violating policies against their own people and trying to damage the struggles of other peoples by any means, including political and socioeconomic measures, are unsubstantiated.

The importance of these steps is that they are taken in accordance with the will of our people. For their future development, we want them to be confirmed by legislation in order to create conditions for work and safe travel, and to drive out oppression and injustice from people's lives. All of us know when human beings can make use of all their rights, including benefitting from work efforts. We know when the worker becomes a partner in the production process instead of being a paid worker, and when a home is the property of those who live in it. These constitute the bases of humanity's freedom from slavery and [words indistinct].

Only in this way can we achieve the freedom of our countries' citizens with respect to their will and human dignity. The struggle to seize power ends when freedom becomes a reality and the masses insure their rights without any obstacle or intermediary, and when they take part in the system of people's committees and councils. Pursuing the changes we are carrying out for the welfare of our people and of all mankind, I would like to assure you that their historic importance has become prominent, but it will become irreversible only when sanctioned by law and legislation. This confirms the accomplished changes in the lives of people who are freed from exploitation, oppression, and injustice.

[Signed] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi

[Dated] 21 May 1988

Najibullah Response

LD0407170988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent the following message of thanks in reply to a message from his Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Your Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah: On behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Afghan people I express my best wishes to your esteemed excellency. I have received your friendly letter. I want to express my profound gratitude for your respect for the policy of humanitarian measures adopted by the Republic of Afghanistan in connection with the release of prisoners, human rights, and ensuring just living conditions for Afghanistan's people.

Esteemed Excellency, the Republic of Afghanistan, having fully supported the policy of the Government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, which is based on ensuring conditions for a tranquil life, the right to work, and social justice, and ensuring the participation of the Libyan people in their country's social and political affairs, which conforms to the instructions of the sacred religion of Islam and the national interests of the Libyan people, hopes that the foundations for ensuring justice and a better life for the people of Libya will be further strengthened.

On 15 January 1987, the Republic of Afghanistan declared its national reconciliation policy. Since those very first days it has tried to create and expand the policy's legal bases. As a first step toward implementing the national reconciliation policy, a general amnesty for prisoners was announced. Decrees were issued on the return of all mobile and fixed property of returnees. Returnees' state debts and taxes were pardoned. Returnees' rights to work and to restablish themselves were guaranteed. Travel without restrictions into and out of the country was allowed. A decree was issued on forming political parties. And finally, Afghanistan's Constitution was approved, elections to the Milli Shura were held, and a coalition government was created to open the path for implementing the national reconciliation policy and for ending of war.

The sacred religion of Islam as the religion of Afghanistan's people is noted in the Constitution of Republic of Afghanistan. No law which contradicts the instructions of the sacred religion of Islam can be approved. The social, political, and economic rights and responsibilities of all citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan are considered in the Constitution. The political system of

the country is based on a multiparty system, and the country's economic system is based on a mixed state, cooperatives, and a private economy.

Recently, a new coalition government, led by Muhammad Hasan Sharq—in which 19 of its members, including the prime minister, are nonparty members and belong to prerevolution regimes—received votes of confidence from the country's parliament, and began its work. The implementation of the national reconciliation policy is manifested in practice, and guaranteed democracy is ensured in the country's Constitution. I have full confidence that the measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan will be welcomed and supported by the political and social circles and the government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

You are aware of the suffering of Afghanistan's people during the 10-year-long war. After 6 years of efforts and flexibility on the part of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Geneva accords were signed between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Countries such as the Soviet Union and the United States signed the documents as guarantors. Based on this, the Soviet forces began their withdrawal on 15 May 1988.

Unfortunately, Pakistan has not fulfilled its commitments, and armed interference from its territory into Afghanistan continues, and has even been intensified. We hope that the international communities, including the Islamic country of Libya, which holds a powerful position in international politics, will support the accurate implementation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan so that peace is established and tension removed in our region.

I once again present my respects to Your Excellency.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

UN's Cordovez Arrives for Talks; Meets Reporters

LD0507165088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] His Excellency D. Cordovez, special envoy of the UN secretary general after arriving in Kabul said the following to the reporters:

The issues of Afghanistan must be solved by Afghans themselves, because historically, Afghans, by having rich and valuable traditions, have always solved their domestic crises in a superb manner by themselves.

The BIA correspondent reported that His Excellency D. Cordovez arrived in Kabul this morning to hold talks with the Republic of Afghanistan authorities about the circumstances of the implementation of Geneva accords.

At Kabul airport he was welcomed by Muhammad Farid Zarif, deputy minister of foreign Affairs; Muhammad Sakhi Daneshjo, adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs; the official in charge of Foreign Ministry liaison office with UMGOMAP [United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan]; the head of the UN development program in Afghanistan; and His Excellency General Helminen, assistant to the special envoy of the UN secretary general in Afghanistan.

In an interview, carried out with domestic and foreign journalists after his arrival, he answered questions about the objective of his visit and activities in the region.

The report adds that His Excellency D. Cordovez was engaged this afternoon in assessing the activities of UMGOMAP in Afghanistan. His official talks with the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan are due to begin tomorrow.

Commentary Criticizes Pakistan's 'Interference'

LD0507105688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 5 Jul 88

["Commentary on Cordovez Trip to Pakistan"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, July 4, BAKHTAR—The current trip of the special envoy of the UN secretary general, Diego Cordovez to Pakistan takes place precisely at a time when the Islamabad authorities are resorting to gross violations of the Geneva agreements contrary to their commitments under the agreements.

Nearly one and a half months elapsed since the enforcement of the Geneva agreements. During this period while the Afghan and Soviet side has observed all their commitments under the agreements sincerely and with good will, the Pakistani side has grossly violated 250 times the agreements and there exists no signs demonstrating the sincere determination of the Pakistani authorities for the implementation of the agreements.

Even on the threshold of Diego Cordovez trip to Pakistan, General Ziaul Haq resorted to irresponsible statements contrary to the spirit of the Geneva agreements in an international conference in Islamabad. He had stated at the conference that the so-called "mujahidin" will topple the government of Kabul by staging a blood-bath in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani authorities not only has stepped up direct and indirect interference in Afghanistan, but also added the dimension of a psychological war against Afghanistan in complete contradiction of the spirit of the Geneva agreements.

All facts and evidences demonstrate that the Pakistani side is acting in word and practice against its undertakings in the Geneva agreements and continues its interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The offices and training centres of the Afghan opposition are still functioning in full strength in the territory of Pakistan.

Dispatching of the opposition armed groups and smuggling of up-to-date armaments into Afghanistan has increased. The refugees camps were encircled and tough restrictions imposed on the return of the Afghan refugees home.

The trip of the special envoy of the UN secretary general to the region provides an appropriate opportunity that all the gross violations of the Geneva agreements to be analysed and Pakistan be compelled to abide by its commi ments under the Geneva agreements. In this regard, the UN secretary general and his special envoy during their meeting with the Afghan president in New York had promised to apply all possible means to meet the demand of the Afghan side for putting the Pakistani side under the moral pressure of the United Nations Organisation for observance of the Geneva agreements.

Bangladesh

Foreign Ministry Deplores Iranian Plane Tragedy

BK0507161088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Bangladesh has deplored the loss of many valuable lives in the destruction of an Iranian airliner in the Gulf on Sunday last. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka expressed deep shock over the incident and conveyed government's deep condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

He underscored Bangladesh's concern over continuous conflict in the region which had already accounted for incalculable damage in men and material. The spokesman also underiined Bangladesh's deep anxiety at the tension prevailing in the region and reiterated the imperative need for an immediate cessation of hostility.

The Foreign Office (?also) said no Bangladeshi national was on board the ill-fated Iranian airliner.

Ershad Leaves on Visit to Zambia, Kenya 4 Jul

BK0407163088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] President Ershad, now on his way to Lusaka, on a state visit to Zambia, made a brief stopover at the King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah this afternoon. He is being accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. In a rare gesture of friendship and solidarity, Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz greeted President Ershad at the airport.

It is for the first time the Saudi crown prince has come to the airport to greet a head of state. President Ershad and Crown Prince 'Abdallah met exclusively for over half an hour at the conference room of the VVIP [very very important person] terminal. The governor of the Mecca Region, Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, was among others present at the airport to receive the president.

Earlier, President Ershad left Dhaka this morning on a state visit to Zambia and Kenya. Our special representative, Aftabuddin Ahmed, says President Ershad is visiting these two African states to express Bangladesh's solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa and Namibia.

During formal talks in Lusaka and Nairobi, the president will review bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern. The presidential entourage includes Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, State Minister for Commerce H.M.A. Ghaffar, and Member of Parliament M.K. Alam Chowdhury.

India

Possible Iranian 'Suicide' Attack Feared in Delhi

LD0607112588 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0908 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] New Delhi, 6 July (TANJUG)—Indian intelligence services have increased security measures in the capital city in order to prevent possible actions by Iranian groups against the embassy and other U.S. missions in New Delhi.

It has been learned from intelligence sources that several Iranian groups have arrived in New Delhi after the catastrophe of the Iranian passenger plane which was shot down by U.S. missiles on Sunday over the Gulf.

Fearing possible "suicide measures" by angry Iranians, the Delhi office for the registration of foreigners has sent the more well-known members of these groups an unusual warning demanding that they do not leave the places where they are staying other than in cases of urgent need.

CPI Demonstrates Against U.S. Plane Downing

BK0507160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] In New Delhi, the Communist Party of India held a demonstration at the American Information Center today to protest against the shooting down of the Iranian airbus.

In a resolution they also demanded that the United States withdraw it armada from the Indian Ocean and the Gulf region.

Possible Soviet Helicopter Purchase Reported

OW0607102688 Beijing XINHUA in English 0944 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] New Delhi, July 4 (XINHUA)—India is likely to acquire the MI-28 combat helicopter from the Soviet Union, it was reported here today.

Indian Army and Air Force test pilots have already flown this chopper in the Soviet Union. The exact number of MI-28s to be acquired is not known yet. The MI-28 will be used by the Indian Army for anti-tank and utility roles.

The MI-28 helicopter which is among the latest combat helicopters in the world was inducted into the Soviet defense services only 2 years ago. It was only recently that the Soviet Union admitted to the existence of the MI-28, a marked improvement on the MI-25 given to India in 1984.

Earlier, a brigadier of the Indian artillery had visited some European countries to try other combat and utility helicopters.

The Italian "Mangusta" and the Federal German "BO-105" are the two European helicopters which the Indian Army favors. However, India is opting for the Soviet MI-28 because the Soviet Union is willing to part with this advanced chopper at a lesser cost.

Security 'Beefed Up' Along Pakistan Border

BK0107124688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1228 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] New Delhi, July 1 (AFP)—India has beefed up security along its northwestern border with Pakistan in a bid to prevent Sikh militants from smuggling in arms, the Border Security Force (BSF) said here Friday.

The BSF has introduced round-the-clock patrols and armed its troops with night vision devices, telescopes and search lights along the border in Bikaner District in the desert state of Rajasthan, the force said in a statement.

Mobile patrols and regular traffic checks are being organised at important crossroads, border approaches and bridges, the statement said.

The extra security steps have been taken to prevent Sikh militants, who are fighting for a separate Sikh nation in the neighbouring northern state of Punjab, from smuggling in weapons from Pakistan, it added.

India has often charged Islamabad with providing sophisticated weapons to aid the Sikh separatist campaign, which has claimed more than 1,400 lives in Punjab this year.

Pakistan has denied the charges.

In April, India tightened security along the Pakistan border in Punjab following a spurt of Sikh separatist violence.

The BSF statement said 72 Pakistanis trying to cross illegally into India were killed by Indian border guards in the first half of 1988. Forty-four intruders were killed last year, mostly spies, it said.

The statement said a total of 2,033 illegal intruders were intercepted and arrested during 1987. Some 1,917 intruders were arrested in the first half of 1988, it added.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from their common colonial ruler Britain in 1947.

12 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab, Haryana

BK0507125688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, 10 hardcore terrorists, including 2 self-styled area commanders, have been arrested in Faridkot District. A police spokesman told our Moga correspondent that the police recovered a huge quantity of sophisticated weapons and ammunition from them.

The Haryana police today arrested two terrorists responsible for killing six persons in Pehuoba in Karnal last month. The state home minister told newsmen in Chandigarh that the two were arrested from (Nishing) village in Karnal District.

Referring to the Kurukshetra bomb explosion in which 16 persons died last month, the minister said that one of the two terrorists responsible for it was killed in an encounter in Ludhiana District.

Iran

Aftermath of U.S. Downing of Iran Air Flight

66 Children Among Passengers

LD0307173088 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Fifty-seven children between 2 to 12 years and nine others under two years of age were among 290 on board the Iran Air Flight No 655 which was targetted by the U.S. fleet over the Persian Gulf and exploded in mid-air around 10:30 hrs local time (about 07:00 GMT) this morning.

Announcing the above today, Hormuzgan governor-general said the rest of the passengers included 16 crew members, 156 men and 52 women. "No survivor has yet been found, while so far frogmen have recovered around 110 bodies," he added.

The Airbus A-300, left Tehran's Mehrabad Airport for Bandar-e 'Abbas at 06:47 hours local time (03:17 GMT) this morning and after short stop took off for Dubayy at 10:15 hrs (06:45 GMT).

According to the governor-general, residents of Iran's Qeshm Island clearly observed the airliner exploding in mid-air when hit by two surface-to-air missiles.

Meanwhile a three-day public mourning was announced in Hormuzgan Province as of today.

38 Foreigners Killed

LD0407064088 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., July 4, IRNA—Bodies of 38 foreign nationals including former military attache of Pakistani Embassy in Iran and his family who were flying to Dubayy aboard an Iran Air Airbus Sunday have been recovered. The Airbus A-300 on a flight from the Iranian port city of Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates was hit by a rocket from a U.S. warship at the strait of Hormuz Sunday morning.

Among the 150 bodies recovered there are eight Indian nationals, eight Pakistanis, 12 from the United Arab Emirates, one Italian, one Afghan, six from Yugoslavia and two from Kuwait. There were more non-Iranian passengers on the plane whose bodies have not yet been recovered.

Search for bodies of the remaining passengers of the plane now continues in the Hormuz Strait.

Two Muslim combatants missing in the waters of the Hormuz Strait since the U.S. hitting of the Iran Air Airbus Sunday were rescued unharmed from the waters later in day. Rescue teams continue to recover scraps of the air liner from the waters with the help of an Italian warship at the Hormuz strait.

A film of the rescue operations was shown on the Iranian television Sunday night with rescue helicopters dropping tracer bullets to light the area and the rescue boats searching for bodies.

Pieces of passengers' baggages were seen floating over miles on the waters of the Hormuz Strait. A relief worker was shown holding the body of an infant. 156 men, 52 women, 66 children under 12 years of age and 16 crew members were aboard the plane which was ripped through by two high-tech U.S. missiles Sunday.

In a statement Sunday night Iran Air invited foreign reporters to travel to Bandar-e 'Abbas and file reports on the U.S. hitting of the Iranian passenger plane.

IRNA Lists Foreigners

LD0407093788 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 4 Jul 88

[All personal names as received]

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Following is a list of dozens of foreign citizens who were killed in the crash of the Iranian Airbus on a flight from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy over the Persian Gulf waters hit by two U.S. missiles. This list is the one provided so far by Iran Air and does not include all the foreign passengers aboard the plane.

1. Militctovic Reqo — From Yugoslavia
2. Semat Cireq
3. Stefko Gug
4. Gregonir Gouic
5. Bogologub Prigeuic
6. Sloqoden Neskouic
7. Caputo — From Italy
8. Capt. Munir Arshad — From Pakistan

(Naval and air attache of Pakistan Embassy in Tehran)

9. Vajiheh Arshad — From Pakistan
10. Arefeh Arshad
11. Ahrima Arshad
12. Mohammad Bahaeddin
13. Ehsan Shahrzad
14. Hassan Ali Mohammad — From the UAE
15. Fahad Hassan (infant)
16. Faisal Hassan (infant)
17. Fatima Hassan (infant)
18. Falah Hassan (infant)
19. Simin Mohammad
20. Fatima Mohammad
21. Mena Mohammad Abdullah Abdulrahman
22. Vahideh Mohammad Abdullah Abdulrahman
23. Mohammad Abdullah Abdulrahman
24. Khaled Mohammad Abdullah Abdulrahman
25. Ahmad Mohammad Abdullah Abdulrahman
26. Saleh Ahmad Abdullah
27. Badrieh Shahda Ibrahim

(Two Kuwaiti nationals reportedly killed in the incident might have been included in the UAE list).

28. Aziz al-Hassan Orfi — From India
29. Eram Orfi
30. Vajiha Orfi
31. Taj Hassan Orfi
32. Mohammad Ali Orfi
33. Karnam Satyana Rayanarao
34. Ram Kiran Rokala (infant)
35. Kalpana Rokala (infant)

Rescuers Recover 168 Bodies

LD0407200088 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Rescue units of the Iranian naval forces have so far retrieved 168 corpses of passengers of the U.S. downed Iranian Airbus A-300 from the Persian Gulf waters, a commander in charge of the units said today.

He said due to the explosion of the airliner in mid-air, its debris was scattered and some corpses were retrieved five kms away from the crash site. "Some corpses have probably been thrown even eight kms away from the crash site, south of Iran's Hangam Island," he added, noting that rescue operations will continue with a gradual increase in the searching zone.

The commander also said that navy frogmen are searching 34 meters deep in the regional waters in order to find shrapnels of the missiles fired at Iran Airlines flight No 655 from the U.S. cruiser 'USS Vincennes' Sunday morning.

Fuselage, Bodies Recovered

LD0607055088 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, July 6, IRNA—Governor General of Hormozgan Province Khorram said here Tuesday that several pieces of the fuselage of an Iran Air airbus A-300 have been receivered from the bottom of the sea at the Hormuz Strait. He said the pieces show ruptures of the kind of the impact of a hitting missile and its shrapnel.

The Iran Air airbus a-300 with 291 passengers and crew members aboard was hit by a missile from an American warship at the Hormuz Strait Sunday while flying through her regular air corridor from the Iranian port Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy. The airliner disintegrated in the air.

The Iranian official said in all likelihood many bodies were pulverized or completely burnt in the air and that therefore they could not hope to find and recover bodies of all the 291 passengers from the waters of the Hormuz Strait. He said the final news of the number of bodies recovered and their identification would be released early next week.

He said immediate relatives of all passengers of the airliner may travel to the Iranian port Bandar-e 'Abbas and use the special facilities for them in order to help officials identify the bodies recovered from the waters.

Military Link Denied

LD0507212688 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2108 GMT 5 Jul 88

[By Grania Langdon-Down, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] Iran tonight denied American claims that the shot-down Iranair airbus had been transmitting on a military frequency.

The Pentagon claimed earlier today that the airliner was transmitting information on two radio channels, including one that had previously been identified with Iranian F-14 fighter planes.

But Iranian pilot Captain Mas'ud Razavi, an airbus captain with 13 years experience, told a press conference at the Iranian Embassy in London that the airliner would have been transmitting on a civilian code given by Dubayy and pre-set before take-off.

He also insisted that the airliner's crew would have been monitoring the emergency frequency 121.5 and would have responded to any American calls to identify the plane.

Captain Mehrujan Gharib, a 747 supervisory pilot and safety inspector with 24 years experience, said flight 655 took off with 290 passengers and 16 crew for a routine flight.

After take-off it turned into the civilian airway, but after eight minutes it disappeared from the radar screen.

Search and rescue teams were told people on a nearby island had seen the plane explode in mid-air. Two hundred bodies had been found so far.

Capt Gharib pledged that when the black box and voice recorder were found they would be made public.

If any organization wanted to take part in the investigation, it would be offered every facility to find the real facts behind what happened, he said.

"We are pulling out bodies of children without heads, without arms. So we ask ourselves 'why, why should this happen?'"

It was "a drastic accident" which involved the deaths of people of many different nationalities and was something that could happen to any airline.

Over the past 10 days there had been nearly 700 international flights in the area where the airbus was shot down.

Asked about American claims that the plane was descending at the time it was shot down, Capt Gharib said it had only just taken off and would have been climbing to its final altitude.

Iranian charge d'affaires Mr Mohammad Basti said the Americans claimed the chapter was now closed.

"We think the chapter has begun, because it was not only Iranian nationals involved. It is not enough just to make an apology for a crime of this magnitude," he said.

He called on the UN Security Council to order the Americans out of the Gulf.

More on Reaction to U.S. Downing of Airplane

Khamene'i Vows 'Firm Response'

LD0607084288 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Semnan, July 6, IRNA—President Khamene'i here today vowed a firm response by Iran to the U.S. downing of an Iran Air Airbus A-300 Sunday.

Khamene'i accompanied by advisor Mostafa Mirsalim arrived in Damghan today to watch the maneuvers of Basij forces of Semnan Province.

He was welcomed by provincial leaders of Friday prayers, governor general, theologians, Majlis deputies, military, police, and local officials.

Speaker Addresses Majlis

LD0507111488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has addressed the current Majlis session. He described the catastrophic U.S. attack on an Iranian passenger airliner as a disaster unprecedented in contemporary history. He said:

In light of its enormity, this disaster should be studied and analyzed. He added: We do now allow ourselves to refrain from taking revenge, and the choice of timing is up to us, not to the United States.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces said: This disaster, which is a catastrophe worse than the crime at Hiroshima, is another revelation of the true nature of the United States. He emphasized: Today is the day of testing for international organizations. We should see what will be the reactions to this frightful crime of the UN Security Council, the court at the Hague, and the other world organizations that claim humane titles for themselves.

More on Majlis Speech

LD0507124588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] The shooting down of the Iranian passenger airliner is a disaster unprecedented in contemporary history. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, made this remark in this morning's open Majlis session. He said:

In light of its enormity, this disaster should be seriously studied and its consequences and effects analyzed. The main point of discussion is whether this crime took place by mistake, or whether it was carried out deliberately.

Noting that the possibility of this disaster having been a mistake is only slight, the Majlis speaker remarked: Even if it was a mistake, the United States cannot be forgiven. The acting commander in chief of the Armed forces said: Iranian experts and officials have commented on this issue, and all of us know that even on ordinary radar the difference between a huge plane and a small military plane can be seen clearly.

Referring to U.S. propaganda ploys in this connection, he said: The aircraft's wreckage and the method of its downing very clearly can be studied from a scientific point of view. When an intelligent person studies the matter, he will understand the truth. The Americans know that this matter will be discovered.

The Majlis speaker announced: It is a strong probability that the issue was a preplanned, preprogrammed, calculated plot against the Islamic revolution. Murphy's trip to the region, his mysterious trip to Iraq, Reagan's letter to Saddam, the pretence that Saddam would not admit Murphy to his presence, and the coordination between that trip and Iraq's threats in the Persian Gulf all are connected.

Referring to the fact that the Americans have called this matter a proper [shayesteh] defense, the Majlis speaker said: The claim of defense by those who guide world policies is not something that can be accepted. From the day we found some listeners in the world, we, in our turn, always have told the people about the vileness, aggression, and danger of the United States, and these listeners have had some effect, too. It is precisely for this reason that the Americans now are angry with us.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces emphasized: We cannot allow ourselves to refrain from taking revenge, and the choice of timing is up to us, not to the United States. Perhaps they would like for some amateurish action to be taken in some corner of the world today, so that once again they may remove the wave of propaganda that now is heaped on their heads and divert it in another direction.

The Majlis speaker remarked: One should allow this crime to be digested properly in the world, so that everyone may understand it and so that it may be studied and discussed. We are certain that those who make decisions in the world will not make very serious decisions. This disaster is another revelation of the true nature of the United States. This catastrophe is worse than the crime at Hiroshima.

Describing the way the incident took place, the Majlis speaker said: They created the disaster; they paved the way for the disaster and committed this crime. Today the person who regards himself as the first person in the world [reference to President Reagan] defends that action in this way, calling it a fitting [shayesteh] defense.

At the end, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces announced: Today is the day of testing for international organizations. We should see what will be the reactions to this frightful crime by the UN Security Council, the court at the Hague, and other world organizations that claim humane titles for themselves.

Vows Certain 'Retaliation'

LD0507194788 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—The acting Commander in Chief of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces said here Monday that Iran will certainly retaliate against last Sunday's criminal U.S. attack on the Iranian passenger plane.

Speaking in the open session of the Majlis (parliament) Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who doubles as the Majlis speaker, referred to the U.S. downing of Iran Air Flight 655 and stressed that Iran will not forego the right of retaliation.

He described the catastrophe as an unparalleled crime in contemporary history, the dimensions of which he said surpass those of the downing of South Korean and Libyan passenger airliners.

The question is whether or not the incident is a tragedy or that the crime took place by mistake, he added.

Of course, said the speaker, it is highly unlikely that it was a mistake. Supposing even if it was, the U.S. can never be acquitted because there was no doubt whatsoever that the massive U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf would definitely lead to such tragedies, he told the house. Even if some are to accept the unmanly action of the captain of the U.S. ship which fired on the Iranian plane as "a mistake," the fat is at least a hundred planes fly over the region daily and possibility of such incidents does exist. "Doesn't the possibility that such incidents may be repeated in further exist?" he asked, adding that the U.S. is well aware that it does.

He ruled out the excuse that the passenger plane was mistaken for a warplane and said that everyone agrees, other things aside, that there is a great difference between a giant passenger airliner and a small warplane, even an ordinary aviation technician could distinguish between them, he added.

On U.S. reaction to the tragedy he pointed that the first one was that flight 655 had been mistaken for a combat jet. Later on having realised the stupidity of such a claim, it was said the Airbus A-300 had strayed outside the international air traffic corridor. "This is a big lie by U.S. officials, the area of the crash and the way the plane exploded nails this lie," he added.

He said quite apparently the whole thing had been planned and was a well calculated plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran. If world public opinion does not protest against it and hold the U.S. responsible then the U.S. has succeeded in its sinister intentions, he added.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani recalled that several days before the Airbus attack U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was in the region and paid a suspicious visit to Baghdad at a time when Iraq was pretending to criticise the U.S., he added.

Ronald Reagan's letter to Saddam (Husayn), the latter's theatrical refusal to meet Murphy, renewed Iraqi threats in the Persian Gulf and provocative statements of area commander of the American Navy in the Persian Gulf George Crist [name as published] and Murphy's political shuttlings to Kuwait, Jordan and Egypt should all be taken into consideration, he said.

All these suspicious moves are indicative of the fact that intensive efforts had been made and it will be pure simple-mindedness to consider the attack as an impulsive act, said the Majlis speaker. The whole issue needs a massive and thorough investigation, he stressed.

Referring to U.S. claims that the sophisticated warship USS Vincennes was simply defending itself against the probability of an attack, he said such claims are ridiculous and stated that all along the Islamic Republic has been warning the world of the U.S. mischief and atrocities. The main reason is Washington's hostility towards Islamic Iran and it is desperate to wreak vengeance on the Iranian people and their leadership, he added.

The acting commander in chief warned the U.S. against further mischiefs and cautioned it against committing another crime in order to minimize the effects of its unpardonable deed. This latest U.S. crime, he added should be spotlighted to further reveal the true venomous nature of the U.S. for the world public opinion.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Washington deliberately created Sunday morning's confrontation with the Iranian Navy in the Hormuz Strait and maintained the Iranian speedboats were on a routine patrol mission.

Suddenly without warning U.S. helicopters appeared on the scene and started firing on Iranian boats and provoked confrontation well aware that Iran Air Flight 655 was shortly overdue [as received] in the area bound for Dubayy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made it clear that the area where the Airbus was shot at (26.43 degrees North, 56.3 degrees East) was not at all a war zone but international air traffic lane S-59.

He scoffed at Reagan for describing the move as a "proper defence" and rebuked the British Government for tamely toeing the American line. Such stances further disillusion people with Western policies, he said.

The Majlis speaker concluded by saying that international organisations shoulder a grave responsibility in this respect and world people are waiting to see what actions these respected bodies will take now.

Iranian officials and the people in accordance with the guidelines of Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri will act at a proper time, he added.

Majlis Approves Bill

LD0507112988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] During today's open session of the Islamic Majlis a draft bill on relentless struggle against global arrogance, particularly the United States, and continuation of the war until final victory was submitted to the Majlis as a matter of urgency as the strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The draft and its urgency was approved.

The sole article of this draft bill reads: Relentless struggle at world level against global arrogance, headed by the Arch Satan. The world-devouring United States, and continuation of the war with the aggressive regime of Iraq until complete victory, are laid down as the strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This must be paramount to all domestic and foreign policies and in every political, economic, cultural, legal, and military field. This principle [asl] must be observed in every aspect of policy-making, legislation, and planning.

Musavi News Conference

LD0507130288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi held a news conference this morning and answered reporters' questions. At the start, while condemning the crime of the Arch Satan, he commented on the U.S. claim that the Iranian passenger aircraft had been flying over a war zone. The prime minister said: The U.S. claim is meaningless and the military commanders have given the necessary explanation in this connection. The U.S. crime cannot be justified and our people should note that the Arch Satan is trying to exonerate itself of this horrific crime, not realizing that it is directly responsible for this crime. This region is not a war zone; it has only become full of tension as result of the presence of the U.S. fleet. The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to respond to the United States at the appropriate time.

Speaking about the U.S. decision not to change its policy of maintaining a military presence in the Persian Gulf following its recent crime, Musavi said: The United States wants to have a direct presence in all countries, but it cannot do so because the struggle of the nations will push them back. Our people will continue their relentless struggle until the last person in order to make the United States leave the region.

Speaking about the programs of the Joint Staff command of the Armed Forces, the prime minister said: This staff is perfect and the government, the army, and the guards corps are all represented in it. One of the programs studied and investigated by the joint staff is an evaluation of the country's potential for a lengthy resistance. It is interesting to note that in this war the winner will be the side which maintains resistance for the longest period.

Speaking about the government's role in the war, he said: Since the beginning of the war the government has had an extensive presence in every matter concerning the war. The formation of the joint staff makes it possible for the government to maintain closer contact between its resources and the war issue.

Speaking about the presentation of the new cabinet to the Islamic Majlis, Musavi mentioned that there are some changes in the cabinet. He said: We are striving to present the new cabinet to the Majlis as soon as possible, and the ministers should therefore draw up their plans and past records and prepare themselves. Of course, the government believes in continuity of management and in retaining those who have long experience.

The prime minister declared that implementing the imam of the ummah's message and giving priority to the war is at the top of the government's agenda. He pointed out that the government will use the organizing ability of the executive system in order to deriving greater benefit in the service of the war. [sentence as heard]

Speaking about controlling inflation and eliminating bureaucracy in the state administrative offices and executive organs, the prime minister said: If we want to have a dynamic country, we must introduce changes in the Majlis legislative framework within the structure of the executive system. In this connection the government has proposed some solutions. The main point is to give greater power to the executive system within the framework of the Majlis. This is necessary in order to maintain the power of the oppressed. Inflation is one of the matters pursued by the government. In view of efforts by Islam's enemies to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to surrender, it is natural to have such problems, bearing in mind the dependent economic structure we inherited.

But we must overcome this phase with steadfastness. The slow pace of routine affairs in some administrative offices is a deep-rooted problem, and the executive system itself is the first victim of bureaucracy. Of course, this is seen not only in dealing with the people, rather the hinderance is set down by the law and should be eliminated by the law; and in some cases a fundamental change in the law is required. The most important of these is the law on general state accounts, which has created many obstacles. The government should be given greater power under this law.

In conclusion, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi spoke about the expansion of cities, control of population growth, and the government's measures in this connection. He said: The government has made some decisions recently to control population growth, and has

adopted policies in this respect which can be implemented legally and religiously in the program planning of various departments. are waiting to see what actions these respected bodies will take now.

Iranian officials and the people in accordance with the guidelines of Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri will act at a proper time, he added.

Judicial Council Statement

LD0507113188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] In a statement, the Supreme Judicial Council condemned the crime of the aggressive United States in shooting down an Iranian passenger plane, and called on legal and judicial bodies and on international organizations to condemn this crime. The Supreme Judicial Council statement said: The world-devouring United States—by attacking the passenger airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran which was flying on a normal, civilian route over the Persian Gulf, and by martyring more than 290 children, women, and men—has violated all international aviation agreements, especially the Chicago, Montreal, Rome, and Vienna conventions, most importantly, Articles I and II of the Chicago convention, and clearly demonstrated that it does not adhere to any international regulation.

In this statement, the Supreme Judicial Council addressed the United Nations and all peace-loving and humanitarian organizations, as well as then judicial bodies of various organizations, as well as lawyers and truth-seeking figures in the world, calling on them to condemn this great crime and to find ways to prevent its reoccurrence.

Labor Minister Appeals to ILO

LD0507112488 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Abulqasem Sarhadizadeh in a letter to International Labor Organisation Tuesday urged the ILO to formulate a convention for the security of crew members of airliners.

His request follows the downing of an Iranian Airbus A-300 by U.S. missiles Sunday at which 291 passengers among them workers from India, Pakistan and Yugoslavia and their families lost their lives.

Velayati Sends Condolences

LD0507172388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Following the latest crime of the United States in attacking a passenger airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran, resulting in the martyrdom of all the passengers on board and its crew, Mr Velayati, the foreign minister of our country, sent messages of condolenses and sympathy to the foreign ministers of Yugoslavia, Kuwait, India, Pakistan, Italy, and the UAE. These messages describe the United States' savage crime and extend condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of this crime.

It states: Some doubt exists that the responsibility of this incident rests with the U.S. Government, but if the aggressor U.S. fleet was not in the Persian Gulf, then certainly this tragedy never would have occured and the lives of innocent human beings would not have been sacrificed in this way to the aggression of the U.S. Government. We believe that your stance in condemning this aggression committed by the U.S. fleet will be a valuable step in supporting the laws and regulations that protect the lives of human beings and safeguard civilized mankind in the face of the savageries of the powerful hegemonists.

Urges Kuwaiti Condemnation

LD0607090088 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 6, IRNA—Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Kuwait Mohammad Foroughi [name as received] presented a message from Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Kuwaiti counterpart Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi here Tuesday.

Velayati's message calls for Kuwait's condemnation of the U.S. for its downing of an Iranian jetliner over the Strait of Hormuz last Sunday.

Al-'Usaymi expressed heartfelt sympathies of the Kuwaiti people and Government to the Iranian Government and families of the victims of the tragic crash.

The Iranian diplomat also expressed his deep sorrow for the death of two Kuwaiti nationals on board the plane.

Iravani Condolences to Pakistan

LD0507084688 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Pakistani deputy minister of economic and financial affairs, Aftab Ahmad Khan, currently here heading a delegation met with minister of Economic and Financial Affairs, Mohammad Javad Iravani, Monday afternoon.

Iravani referred to the crash of an Iran Air Airbus and martyrdom of 291 innocent passengers including several Pakistanis by a U.S. warship and expressed his condolences to the delegation.

Iravani, who represents the Iranian side in the joint economic cooperation commission, presented his suggestions for better implementation of the letter of understanding signed by Iran-Pakistan ministers of economic and financial affairs in Islamabad last October.

He also expressed hope for improvement in the level of Tehran-Islamabad trade ties and industrial relations before a future joint meeting.

Ahmad Khan expressed sympathy with the government and people of Iran on the Airbus crash. He described his talks with Iranian officials as 'useful'. He expressed hope that his visit would serve the purposes of the forthcoming joint meeting.

Ahmad Khan arrived here Saturday to follow up a third letter of understanding between the two countries.

Envoy to France Comments

LD0507082488 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Paris, July 5, IRNA—The Sunday downing of an Iranian jetliner on a flight from Bandar 'Abbas to Dubayy is "the best example of state sponsored terrorism," said new Iranian Ambassador to Paris 'Ali Ahani at a press conference here monday evening.

Ahani told reporters that the the time of the U.S. attack the plane was navigating through her regular air corridor said the attack which killed all those on board was deliberate." [sentence as received]

"The U.S. Administration must bear the consequences of this tragedy," he told reporters, and stressed the sophisticated radar system over [as received] the U.S. warship rules out the likelihood of a mistake.

The claims of U.S. officials that the passenger plane had been mistaken for an F-14 combat plane is "ridiculous and irrational and is a cover-up for this inhuman act," he added.

Ahani appealed to international bodies, world parliaments and human rights socities to condemn the U.S.

He said that at the outset the stance of the French Government towards the incident was positive but added that Iran expects France to be a little more candid in her official statement on the incident and show less verbal reservations in reacting to it.

He said Iran reserves the right for any legal action, or other proper reaction to the U.S. hitting of the Iranian passenger plane.

On the possible impact of the incident on the lives of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, he said Iran is not and will not be responsible for the behavior of the Lebanese groups.

In conclusion Ahani said that withdrawal of U.S. warships from the Persian Gulf will help ease tension in the region.

More on Foreign Reaction to Plane Downing

USSR, PRC Condemn Act

LD0407190988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov met today with our ambassador to the USSR to discuss the downing of a passenger aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran (?over the Persian Gulf). He said: The Supreme Soviet and people of the USSR strongly condemn this barbaric U.S. act. He added: We repeatedly warned the United States about the need for an immediate withdrawal from the Persian Gulf, and this great tragedy directly results from the illegitimate presence of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf. In conclusion he offered the deep condolences of the Soviet leadership and the people of the USSR concerning this painful calamity.

The PRC deputy foreign minister, in a meeting with our ambassador in Beijing concerning the barbaric U.S. attack and the downing of an airliner belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning the action, said: We were shocked by this news, and we offer our condolences to the Iranian nation. The United States shot down a passenger aircraft, using a battleship; no explanations can be acceptable.

He also said that his country opposes military intervention by large countries in the Persian Gulf, stating: We believe that such intervention is detrimental to peace and stability in the Persian Gulf.

Syria Sends Condolences

LD0607081288 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, July 6, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed his condolence to Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari at the Iranian Embassy here Tuesday for the loss of 291 passengers of Iran Air Airbus A-300. The aircraft was downed by a U.S. warship at the Hormuz Strait Sunday while on a regular flight from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubay.

The Syrian foreign minister said that the world people are on the side of the Iranians in their confrontation with the U.S.

The catastrophe, he said, compels a closer unity between the peoples of Iran and Syria and warrants an immediate withdrawal of foreign military forces from the Persian Gulf.

He described the U.S. attack on the airliner as a "plot", but noted that the incident would certainly further strengthen the firmness of the Iranian nation. He renewed Syria's support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response Akhtarai praised the sympathetic stance of the government and people of Syria towards Iran.

Bahrain Group's Statement

LD0507172988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, in a statement on the downing of an Airbus aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf, stresses that arrogant powers, through the continuation of their cruel behavior, believe they can continue their rule over Muslim nations and capture the wealth and destiny of nations. However, as the holy Koran states, such crimes have no result but their own downfall.

The statement of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, noting the collusion between the reactionary regimes of the Persian Gulf region and the international oppression in the course of such crimes, says that these regimes, in order to prove their dependence and servitude, prepared the way for the presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf. In conclusion, the statement offers congratulations and condolences to the imam of the ummah, and families of the martyrs, and asks the world's muslims to strongly condemn the latest U.S. crime against the Muslim Iranian nation.

Honecker Condolences

LD0507222388 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Ambassador of German Democratic Republic (GDR) Guenther Fritsch met President 'Ali Khamene'i here Thursday and submitted a message from GDR President Erich Honecker conveying his and his country's sympathy over the martyrdom of 290 passengers aboard the U.S. downed Iranian Airbus.

The GDR ambassador strongly condemned Washington's crime and said how is it possible that the U.S. which styles itself as "defender of human rights" commits such unmanly acts. In fact the U.S. act leaves no doubt as to who really is violater of human rights, he added.

A U.S. cruiser in the Persian Gulf missile-attacked Iran Air Flight 655 enroute to Dubay Sunday, killing all 290 passengers aboard.

In response, President Khamene'i termed the attack horrible and said the growing rowdyism on the part of the U.S. has led it to commit an inhuman crime, which has jeopardized the safety of international air traffic lanes. The world bodies should confront this lawlessness, he added,

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i warned that Iran will avenge the blood of martyrs and will pursue its right powerfully. All nations and governments of the world should categorically confront such barbaric crimes, the president emphasised.

Aviation Body's Statement

LD0307152388 Tehran IRNA in English 1514 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Following the U.S. Navy's downing of an Iranian passenger airliner over the Persian Gulf Sunday morning, Iran's civil aviation organization issued a statement today, calling on international bodies to take immediate measure to prevent the repetition of such inhuman crimes.

The Airbus, Flight No 655 en route to Dubayy from the southern Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas with 298 passenger and crew members aboard was hit by two surface-to-air missiles fired by the U.S. naval fleet at location 26.43 degrees north 53.3 degrees east and exploded in the sky.

The statement also urged all aviation organizations around the world to break their silence and instead take proper measures to put an end to such terrible crimes and to ensure the safety of passenger airliners.

UN Calls for Inquiry

LD0507182788 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 5 IRNA—The international air transport association (IATA) said that it "deplored" the use of force against any plane and has asked all governments to set up an inquiry into the U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger airliner which killed 290 people.

The call from IATA comes as the U.S. says it will carry out its own investigation of how its cruiser Vincennes blew the C-300 airbus out of the sky that is seen more as a public relations exercise. [sentence as reived]

The Geneva-based association argues that the inquiry should be independent under the auspices of the United Nations I.C.A.O. aviation body and already discrepancies have showed up between the U.S. version of events and aviation monitors.

Conflicting and contradictory accounts have even been coming from Washington between and within administration departments since the airbus was shot down on Sunday and aviation officials are further reported to be disputing U.S. claims.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST Tuesday, reports from civilian aviation officials in the Persian Gulf do not correspond with Washington's lastest assertion that the passenger airliner was descending as though it was going to attack its warships.

The pilot of the Iran Air flight 655 had just been authorised to climb from 2,100 metres to the assigned altitude 4,000 metres, monitor controllers in the United Arab Emirates said.

The Italian Navy has also denied the claim put out that the airbus was outside its corridor as alleged by the U.S. and said Tuesday that its warships were too far away to assess.

Flight 655 has flied regularly between Bandar-e 'Abbas and Dubayy throught the 8-years of the Iraqi war without incident and was reported Sunday to have left on its scheduled time and not to have deviated from its usual path through the corridor.

Tragedy Used for 'Propaganda'

TA0507194388 (Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, the tragedy of the death of 290 passengers of the Iran Air plane over the Strait of Hormuz has filled the world with grief. There is no one who did not feel regret and sadness in his heart on hearing this news. The only people who are inwardly happy at this incident are the leaders of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

From their viewpoint the downing of the Iran Air plane by the missile of the U.S. cruiser is not a human tragedy, it is a political opportunity. The Islamic Republic is facing defeat everywhere. On the war front with Iraq the guards and the mobilization forces, as Lenin said, are voting with their feet for ending the war. [passage omitted] Inside the country no one is chanting the slogan "War, war until victory," any longer. Exhaustion and a lack of faith have taken over.

In the midst of all this turmoil, at a time when the Strait of Hormuz was the scene of combat between IRGC speedboats and U.S. ships, planes, and helicopters, a passenger airliner suddenly takes off from Bandar-e 'Abbas and flies over the U.S. cruiser ignoring its warnings and is exploded in midair by the cruiser's missiles. All the passengers are killed instantly. It is one of the worst air disasters in history. The leaders of the Islamic Republic, however, view this tragedy as a windfall. They dedicate all their resources for propaganda purposes, but they do not adopt the slightest measure to prevent the repetition of such an incident. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i, French Envoy Hold Talks on Relations

LD0507180288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Christian Graeff, the new French ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, presented his credentials to Mr Khamene'i this morning. The new French ambassador, after conveying the warm greetings of Mr Mitterrand, referred to the continuing clashes in the Persian Gulf region. He expressed the hope that these clashes will end with a lasting and just solution.

While expressing his profound regrets at the tragic incident of the downing of the Iranian passenger airliner in the Persian Gulf, the French ambassador emphasized the commitment of the French Government to respect rights and principles as accepted by the international community, and called for efforts for further expanding relations and cooperation between Iran and France.

After expressing his thanks for the message and greetings from the French president, Mr Khamene'i welcomed the expansion and deepening of bilateral relations, and emphasized the need for serious and sincere efforts for establishing relations at a satisfactory level. Referring to Iraq starting the imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its effects on Iranian-French relations, Mr Khamene'i said: We hope that through the serious and friendly efforts being made toward new ties between our two countries, cooperation and contacts between France and Iran will be further expanded and deepened, and all the existing fields of interest of both countries will be used for this purpose.

Message to UN on Saudi 'Support' for Iraq

LD0207113588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] In a letter to the UN secretary general, Iran's UN representative has cited some evidence regarding the all-embracing military cooperation and support of the Saudi regime for the Iraqi regime in the imposed war. This constitutes a clear and certain violation of the principles of impartiality. According to news agency reports, the letter refers to instances of the Saudi support for Saddam's regime, saying: By allowing Iraqi warplanes to land at Hejaz [Saudi] airports on the way back from combat missions on two occasions during the current Christian year, the Saudi regime has violated the principles of impartiality.

According to the remarks by [UN Representative] Mohammad Ja'far Mahalati, four Iraqi warplanes and 11 tanker-aircraft flew from an air base situated 80 km west of Shuaybah in Iraq on 22 January. After flying from Hejaz and twice refuelling in the skies of that country, they attacked Iranian economic installations in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's UN representative remarks in his letter: On their way back, those aircraft landed at Dhahran airport in Hejaz. After refuelling and after the crew had rested, they returned to Iraq the same afternoon.

Referring to another instance of clear cooperation between the Saudi regime and the Baghdad rulers, the letter says: On 21 April, two Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian island in the Persian Gulf. One was hit by anti-aircraft fire and landed at (Abu Jubayl) airport in Hejaz. The damaged aircraft was later transported to Iraq with the help of the Saudi regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on New War Policy

NC0307072888 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1730 GMT 2 Jul 88

["Exclusive" interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Islamic Majlis, with unidentified correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran on 2 July—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the recent statement issued by the War Support Council, reference was made to a series of fresh moves that the Iraqi regime is embarking on in the war. What measures have been taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to combat these moves?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As the present situation indicates, it appears that our enemies—the enemies of Islam—are determined to prevent Iran's vindication of its rights. They are trying to extricate Saddam from the predicament which he has created himself, and to let him off scot-free. The new circumstances that they have created are based on a series of measures implemented to save Saddam and to wrest away our military superiority which has been a decisive factor in the past few years. We are not only faced with the issue of territory or war on the battlefronts.

In international forums, where our enemies raise the slogans of peace, they also make simultaneous efforts to jeopardize the rights of the oppressed, to prevent the vindication of our rights, and to depict us as the warmongering party while the Iraqi Ba'th Party is presented as the peace-seeker. They are not ready to explain to the people of the world that what they consider peace is bound up with ignoring the rights of the oppressed and disregarding their right to have the aggressor punished. This is the price. It is a peace designed to save the one who created this dangerous situation and embroiled himself, as well as two nations. World propaganda machinery is in their hands and they portray matters in this manner. We should prepare ourselves for the present situation in every way.

[Correspondent] Recently, at the Friday prayers, Mr Khamene'i announced the fifth phase of our sacred defense. I would like to ask you about the particulars of this phase.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is not restricted to various dimensions in one field. We should mobilize all the country's resources for the battlefronts so that the balance tilts in our favor. The Islamic Republic has this capability. As regards manpower, we are capable of mobilizing several times as many forces, including soldiers, mobilization volunteers and cadres, as we now have at the fronts. So far our policy has been that normal life should continue and the war should be geared to making the enemy retreat step by step until we obtain results.

The present circumstances dictate that we should change this policy. It is only that our forces do not suffice for the purpose. The preparation of these forces is important and we should utilize the nation's potential even further. Therefore, the decree of his holiness the imam and the order appointing an acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces were issued. The imam gave the guidelines in a specific order so that the country's potential and policy could be stipulated on the basis of the requirements of the war.

It was for this reason that we brought about a merger in the general command headquarters of the Armed Forces, in the general command headquarters which has been recently set up and has begun its work. The purpose was to bring the government, the Armed forces, and the IRGC together so that all potential could be utilized in a coordinated manner. This would enable us to mobilize all the country's resources for the war. In order to obtain legal backing, we must naturally complete a series of regulations so that the war officials may have a free hand in the absorption of manpower and resources and be able to bring capable officials from nonmilitary departments into the war departments. This work has been initiated already.

As regards propaganda, that is another field. We should not allow our enemies to portray us as warmongers and Saddam as peaceloving. While we stress the continuation of the war, we—that is, our speakers, other speakers, and the media—all should take care to foil this ploy of the oppressors. Whenever there is a mention of victory on the warfronts, we should stress that we have also left the road to a nonmilitary end to the war open. We have said that they should identify Iraq as the aggressor. The war could then be halted until the results of the investigation are known. If we continue to stress this, they will not be able constantly to flaunt the accusation at us of warmongering.

[Correspondent] As an explanation of the recent decree of his holiness the imam, is any special change foreseen in the management of the war, in the merger of the Armed Forces?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, there has been a change in the management of the war. We recently formed a general Armed Forces headquarters, an Armed Forces command headquarters, and, as I mentioned, its structure is different from that of the previous headquarters. The government, the Armed Forces, and the IRGC are all represented in one place so that there may be maximum coordination in operations. These are the changes

in the management of the Armed Forces. (However?) at present we have no immediate plans to merge the Armed Forces with the IRGC and the IRGC in the Armed Forces.

Our first task is coordination among these forces. However, in the light of the imam's order, we should forge ahead until complete unity is obtained and we should prepare the groundwork for this. It is natural that we should seek to preserve the values of the Armed Forces and the IRGC and to amalgamate them in such a way as to create a more powerful force. In view of our background, the depth that our country has [as heard], and the abundant potential in Iran as regards manpower and other resources, as well as the research capability of the ordnance industries, it is possible for us to form an armed force that would be invincible in the region. We have initiated this work according to the program specified by the imam and a special group has been instructed to undertake the task of planning. In this way our various forces that are involved in war work at present can be formed into a new armed force with a suitable structure.

The point which I must stress is that as a matter of fact, in this new situation, no one's rights will be jeopardized. The power or strength of the Armed Forces or the IRGC will not be reduced. The merger is for the purpose of combining the two into a coordinated and unified armed force.

[Correspondent] U.S. officials recently threatened that they will attack Iran's missile bases in the Strait of Hormuz. I wish to ask Your Excellency what Iran's stance on this and other similar threats is?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The Americans have, for a long time, adopted an overtly and officially hostile attitude. Whenever they consider it necessary to boost Saddam's morale or, in their own opinion, to weaken the morale of our people, they commit an act of mischief. It was natural that after the War Support Council and the head of the council adopted their new stance, the Americans should flex their muscles. As we have always seen, the United States awaits an opportunity, a pretext to spew venom on our revolution and on Muslims.

[Correspondent] Lately we have witnessed extensive activity by the Islamic Republic of Iran in international forums, including the forging of ties with some Western countries. What is your excellency's assessment of these measures?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is a correct move. One of our incorrect measures was that, in our revolutionary atmosphere, we made enemies of them. We created enemies for ourselves. Those who could have remained indifferent were made to transform their indifference into hostility, and we did not attempt to attract the friendship of those who could have been our friends. Under the new program, in this fifth phase that Mr Khamene'i referred to, one element is that in our foreign policy we should conduct ourselves in a manner that does not lead us needlessly to leave the field free for our enemies. There are many governments which might either remain indifferent—and it is possible that Iraq has wooed them, or the United States and the reactionaries—or might be our friends, but we have not spent enough time seeing that they become friends, by our side. Now the Foreign Ministry has been instructed to tread the corrrect path at this stage. It is one that we should always have followed.

[Correspondent] At the end of last week, we witnessed the seeking of a vote of confidence by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and, in the course of the current week, the new cabinet will probably be presented to the Majlis. In what direction is the third Majlis leaning as regards the structure and establishment of the new government?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] From the votes cast, it is clear that the Majlis is in complete agreement with the prime minsiter's government. It is also obvious to us that, in this stage, the desired coordination between the government and the Majlis will be attained.

[Correspondent] In view of the recent statement by the War Support Council, is it possibled to anticipate that in the coming weeks we will witness the implementation of a plan for the dispatch of mobilized forces to the fronts?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What is definite is that at the moment we are in extraordinary need of the extensive presence of volunteer forces, especially trained forces. We expect that forces who perceive combat readiness in themselves will not hesitate. They will hasten to the dispatch centers so that their transfer to the front may be organized.

The situation should not be such that we send one wave and then delay the next wave. Things should be organized in such a way that before we relieve the present batch the next group should already have entered the field. Of course, at the moment, our long-term program is, by calling up a larger number of conscripts and military forces from all other centers and more soldiers for military service, to increase the number of cadres and combat forces that are constantly present at the fronts. Volunteer and mobilization forces should be used at special junctures. However, we need time to reach that level. If, at this stage, presence continues as we expect it to, we will be able to bring about definite developments in the battlefields.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that (?reserve forces) will be called up or the length of military service extended?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are working on it; we are still planning. Perhaps it might mean both. That is, we cannot rely on the fact that military service is the same as in peacetime. We know that throughout the war, in these

8 to 9 years, the Iraqis have not released their soldiers. Even those who had served for 2 years prior to the commencement of the war are still in military service in Iraq. This means that they have served for 11 years. We have kept the length of military service at only 2 years, just as it is in peacetime, until recently when we added another 4 months. This is not adequate for a war on such a large scale. In all parts of the world, reserve forces are called up in stages, but we have not done so. The reason was that the people volunteered in large numbers and this was adequate for our war needs.

The fifth stage has special characteristics according to which we must stress other issues. It requires special regulations which we will implement.

[Correspondent] In the busy rumor market, which fuels psychological warfare, there was a report of an attempt against Your Excellency's life and similar occurrences. What does Your Excellency have to say on this?

[Hashemi-Rafsjanjani, laughing] I will say that our nation has heard many lies of this kind. It never believes them. Our enemies concoct such falsehoods every day. For example, when it is the month of Ramadan, or Muharram [month of mourning for Shi'ites] and his holiness the imam does not appear or have meetings as usual, they begin propagating such rumors. We are nothing by comparison. Whether we are there or not, it does not affect the revolution. This is merely an indication of our enemies' weakness. Our people should not worry about these things. If such a thing had occurred, it would not have been important. Praise be to God, nothing of the sort did occur and we are not so important or indispensable that it would make a difference if we were not there.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] May you be successful.

Musavi Cables Support for Khomeyni Orders

'Text' of Message

NC0507194488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 5 Jul 88

["Text" of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's message to Imam Khomeyni—date not given]

[Text] To the auspicious presence of the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni. May your shadow be extended.

We thank God at this most fateful juncture in the history of Islam and Iran for according assistance and his blessings to his most oppressed creatures in the form of your profound intelligence and wise leadership. Your remarks in response to the condolence message of His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri is truly the cry from the hearts of all those who have comprehended the greatness of this divine movement and are aware of the depth and extent of the plots initiated to extinguish the divine effulgence in this darkest and longest night in history.

Our defense today is to guard the most sacred of human aspirations which does not wane, does not know defeat, and does not brook anything less than victory. As long as the resistant and honorable nation of Iran is present on the scene, the enemy cannot break us, nor can it even contemplate attempting such a futile venture. It is seeking to shatter our determination. It wants us to succumb and to do, by ourselves, what it is unable to do itself. The historic U.S. crime in attacking our passenger airplane was committed with such intentions, and the daily plots and consecutive sorrows which are being inflicted on us are for the same purpose. However, we have emulated your example and that of your imam, who said: If mountains give way you must not collapse under them. This emulation is greater than victory on the fronts.

We will follow the example of our great martyrs who considered life to be faith and holy war, and we will bring the whole country to the scene of this holy struggle. Today it is time to pay the dues of our faith which has revived human values. Today it is time for fortitude and holy war. It is the day for planning, effort, and victory. The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with its overall presence in the Armed Forces Command Headquarters, has dedicated all its determination to this path and it asks for the prayers of your auspicious presence to accompany us along the way. We firmly believe that if we remain steadfast victory will await us.

[Signed] Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister

Urges Battle Against U.S.

LD0507201488 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Tuesday cabled a message to the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni announcing the government's readiness to actively participate in the newly-formed general command headquarters.

The premier stressed in his message that as long as the Iranian Muslims maintain their support for the Islamic Revolution, none of their enemies can defeat them.

Musavi described last Sunday's U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf which led to the martyrdom of all 290 passengers and crew aboard, as just another plot to force the Muslim people of Iran into compromise.

Elsewhere in his message, the premier, saying that Iran's present defence is aimed at safeguarding the ideals of humanity, promised that he would turn the whole country into a battle scene against the U.S. and its regional surrogates.

Musavi's cable came following the founder of the Islamic Republic's message to Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri Monday, in which Imam Khomeyni urged Iranian people to rush to the battlefields for a total war against the U.S.

President Khamene'i's Sermon on War 1 Jul
LD0107192388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Sermon by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 1 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted talking about the anniversary of the 1980 explosion at Islamic Republic Party headquarters and the week devoted to judicial matters].

Now, let us address our main issue. The main issue concerns the fronts and the war. The events of the past 2 or 3 months have raised a question in the minds of our people, as well as in the minds of all world observers. Despite the forces of Islam with all their power, with all their strength, all of a sudden everyone's gaze has been drawn to the fact that these forces have retreated in a number of operations in the face of the enemy. They withdrew from their positions and the enemy advanced. This gave rise to a number of questions in people's minds. Among our own people, those who are more familiar with the problems of the war and the fronts have fewer questions, but those who are farther removed from the war have more and bigger questions because they are less familiar with the battlefields, war equipment and the nature of the war. In any case, this is a question which should be answered.

The same thing is true about what crosses the minds of foreign analysts. However, as foreign commentators are quite incapable of understanding the issues regarding our country and the revolution and as they have so many mistaken ideas, they have made various comments, most or all of which were false and untrue.

Of course, I should also say that when this question arose in people's minds, the enemy took the opportunity, and in addition to military means and offensives, they also started a very extensive psychological war against the Islamic Republic. When I say that the enemy engaged in a psychological warfare, by that I do not mean the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, because the Iraqi regime is too weak to be able to engage in such extensive psychological warfare. No, all arrogant organizations, all the loudmouths connected with the arrogant organizations joined hands. News agencies, radios, the Voice of America, Israeli radio, BBC—all of them with one voice and in a coordinated fashion raised a number of issues in a calculated and precisely planned fashion in order to wage complete psychological warfare against our society. They spread ideas in society, saying that the people or the officials or the fighters had tired of war, and that these withdrawals are the result of war weariness, that they plan not to fight any more and not to continue the war.

Such psychological warfare! Of course, their tricks will influence some individuals; some people really believe them. Of course our people are intelligent, they are aware. There are many people who will not be deceived by such propaganda and remarks. However, when such remarks were repeated, when they were uttered, when all the radios broadcast them, when these remarks pass by word of mouth, it is possible that doubts may arise in some minds. This was their psychological warfare, which they waged against our public opinion alongside their military effort.

We should talk about this issue. We should mention how things are now and what will happen later. I shall try today, God willing, to use the time we have and as far as possible mention some of the things that must be mentioned—the telephone calls to our public relations office, the letters that people write, their messages, the Friday prayer leaders and the ulema that come from the provinces, and some individuals from various strata of the population that meet us. They talk about issues, and this shows what kind of questions are in the people's minds; and that these questions should be answered. I shall try to cover these issues as well as possible.

First, let us review the situation from the start of the war until now. I do not want to give a detailed account of the war; no, it will instead be a catalogue of the situation as it has developed and how we stand at the moment so that we will be fully aware of it and everyone will grasp the realities of the situation, even though it has been mentioned on numerous occasions and though the majority of you dear people, know the details. The war has passed through four phases up to the present phase in which we stand now. Four phases, and this present phase, this current phase, is the fifth phase. Each of these four phases has had its own characteristics, and global arrogance played a role in each of these phases. I would like to talk more about the role of global arrogance. Arrogant powers—above all the United States, and next, the U.S. allies and its followers, and the Soviet Union—in short, powers that are against Islam and against the Islamic Republic. What was the stance adopted by these powers in each of these phases?

The first phase was Iraq's overt invasion the 1980, that is, the start of the war. We were caught by surprise; there were no defensive forces to confront the enemy, people were involved in the changes brought about by the revolution. The enemy, drunk with joy and pride, came along, and directed all his efforts toward coming here and separating a part of the country from the rest. The way they had drawn up their schemes was that one part of the country would either become independent or a cancerous growth in this region under the influence of the United States and world arrogance, or it would turn out to be like Iraq. This was not Saddam's doing;

Saddam was an agent in the efforts to destroy the revolution. This method had been used in other places before: it was not particular to this area. One of the blows against revolutions is a military invasion.

They saw it fit to use Saddam—an arrogant, stubborn, person who ignores humanitarian principles and who is extremely opportunistic and ignorant of realities. They saw what he was like and sent him to do this job; and he welcomed it and came forward.

This was the first phase. Well, in this phase, our situation was clear; and we all remember it. We were caught by surprise and our Armed Forces were not able to resist. The enemy entered our territory, up to 80, 90 km—in some places 80km, 60 km into our territory. And not only did the world not protest in the slightest, but some even applauded the enemy. Others told him: well done! And others stood by, waiting for this act to succeed. This was the situation with regard to global arrogance. Well, a military movement had begun. The United States, the Soviet Union, those who claim that they are against tension and war in various regions of the world—why then did they not say anything? Because they wanted it; it was carried out with their approval; they had sought it. Now, it may be that not all arrogant governments and powers were implicated and there may be exceptions, but in any case, there was an unwritten agreement and a general acceptance over this matter; and Saddam carried out the job with confidence. This phase did not last very long—perhaps we can see it as lasting for a week or 2 to 3 weeks—and the interlude of successive victories and advances did not last for more than several weeks.

The second phase was the phase in which our Armed Forces stood steadfast. After the first blow, our Armed Forces took hold of themselves and gathered their forces. Ouf course, in that second phase, the Army played a major role; in Ahvaz, Dezful, Bakhtaran, other places, it was the Army's forces that stood steadfast. The IRGC, which at that time was gradually expanding its organization, also set to work. [passage omitted]

Finally, the full strength of the country got on the move and succeeded in halting the invasion. The enemy wanted to separate Khuzestan completely from Dezful region, but we prevented them from doing this and pushed them to the other side of the Karkheh River. [passage omitted]

And so the fighting proceeded. Of course, Khorramshahr did fall to the enemy and some other towns too, but the enemy's ultimate goal was not realized and they were stalemated. This was the second phase and it lasted for about 1 and ½ years. During this phase, the enemy was standing still, had no more strength. And while their forces were getting weaker, ours were getting stronger and were consolidating their strength step by step and raising the level of our resistance.

During this phase, world arrogance was doing a very funny thing: because it saw that Iraq was unable to achieve its aims through military invasion, it tried to reach its goals at the negotiating table. They came and there were movements, and the comings and goings began, the trips to Tehran began; and all over the world, international assemblies and governments said: Come and accept the cease-fire. At that time we were saying: How can we accept a cease-fire; the enemy is on our territory. They would say: allright, accept the cease-fire and the enemy will leave your territory. So, what they wanted was for the war to end and for the aggressors to retain those regions which they had occupied. Of course, we did not accept.

In this second phase, the liberals would not leave us in peace, just like a contagious desease. Our internal enemies were truly the liberals during this interlude. They were pressing us all the time and pressuring us to accept the cease-fire, saying: You must accept; the situation will deteriorate. We resisted, and in our meetings we persistingly repeated that same decisive decree of the imam of the ummah and his supplementary opinion that the enemy should be punished, should be driven out of our territory, should pay compensation. That was how this phase ended.

The third phase was when we acquired the necessary readiness as the IRGC expanded by establishing a number of brigades and divisions, provinding useful training to its forces, and becoming a forceful and mighty combat arm. [passage omitted]

This third phase was when the enemy tasted the bitterness of retreat and shame of defeat. Our forces surged forward and recaptured much of the areas under the enemy occupation. [passage omitted]

It was in the third phase that global arrogance and the powers decided that assistance to Iraq had to begin. It was done. They had realized that under the prevailing conditions and at Iraq's level of armament and military quality and with its organization, Iraq would certainly be defeated. The flow of hardware began from the United States, Europe, and USSR to Iraq around the end of 1360 [22 March 1981] until 1364 [ended 20 March 1986]. This was the end of the third phase, which saw us surge ahead to drive the enemy out of our territory and moreover to capture some land in reprisal for their presence on our land.

The above shining examples proved to us that the inherent force of the nation was truly sufficient to defend it. We told the world that part of the task had been completed. We had said that Iraq should retreat and pay war damages and be condemned or punished as the aggressor. We conveyed this concept in various ways. We told them that the part concerning the retreat had already been carried out by us; and we asked them to honor the rest of these demands. [passage omitted]

Relying on the might of our combatants and the determination of our nation as well as the explicit decision of our leadership, we had done this. Now we asked them to do the rest. [passage omitted] We asked them to establish a tribunal along the lines of the Nuremberg courts which tried World War II criminals to try Saddam and his aides; and we would not interfere with the ruling of the court as long as the trial was held and punishment was meted out. [passage omitted]

Our reasonable view in the course of the third phase was that those wishing to attack others should not have the power to do so. This is what we told everybody. Of course, there were some of these remnant liberals who protested against our insisting on punishment of the aggressor. We said that punishing the aggressor was a means to reach peace because the aggressor would not accept peace without punishment. This was declared at world gatherings. We said that we cherished peace but that we respected justice more than peace. [passage omitted] I must say that the world had nothing to say against this logical stand. This was the third phase.

Al-Faw is not the issue—whether our combatants take it one day and the next day the Iraqis may take it back. The issue of territory is of secondary importance. It is of primary importance to demonstrate the superior divine and miraculous power of the faith of a nation. There is a difference between the Iraqi armored and infantry advance on the flat ground of Al-Faw against a few mobilization corps and IRGC battalions and the manly advance of our combatant forces as they crossed the Shatt-al 'Arab to teach the Iraqi forces a lesson in the year 1364 [1985]. That was something else—that was greatness, an unforgettable glory.

These recent events will not wipe out those glories. The problem developed since Val Fajr 8 operation. Our slogan during this phase of the operation was to tell the world that we did not covet Iraqi territory; we did not want Iraqi territory. [passage omitted]

Our problem is not one of territory; our problem is more fundamental and principled. The problem is this: We said that in order to achieve justice and lasting peace in the region the aggressor must be punished. [chants by the crowd]

We told the world that the aggressor must be punished if peace and justice was to be achieved; and we told the world: You can come an punish the aggressor. We told them to organize a tribunal and to comdemn the aggressor. They did not do so, so we had to do it ourselves.

That was our slogan in the fourth phase. We said since the world was not ready to behave in accordance with justice, then we ourselves would use the power of our faith and mobilize the power of our combatants to do justice. [chants by the crowd]

Therefore, the fourth phase began with the slogan: the aggressor must be punished by the combatants and by the power of the Iranian nation and with no expectation that the foreigners will punish Saddam. We said: Since you will not do it, then we will have to do it ourselves. Thus, Val Fajr 8 began. [passage omitted] The last of these offensives was Val Fajr 10 and the great victory halabjah which our combatants miraculously achieved. So the fourth phase lasted about 2 years.

Now, what position did the world adopt during this period? The next point is very important, so you must pay attention. In the fourth phase our forces were ready to go into action; our equipment was advanced. During this period we succeeded in manufacturing a great many items inside the country which we had formerly obtained from abroad. In this period we gained a great deal of experience in warfare. Our combatants and youth managed to employ complex tactics. During this period our strong diplomatic presence worldwide succeeded in making our legitimate words heard by the world. During the fourth phase the power of the Islamic Repulic became clear to all the world. Moreover, the weakness of the Saddam regime became clear to all the world. [passage omitted]

It was at that time when global arrogance felt that the Saddam regime would disintegrate with the invasion of the Islamic Repubic and that the Islamic Republic would achieve a decisive and absolute victory. Global arrogance was convinced of this. [passage omitted]

It was clear to all political observers that the war was approaching its final stage, that it was about to enter its final phase. This was said around the world ever since the Val Fajr 8 operation was launched in 1985. They felt that victory belonged to the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation.

Well, now. What was global arrogance to do in such a situation? global arrogance began to feel that it was threatened. By global arrogance here, I do not mean the United States alone—the United States, the Soviet Union, the European allies of the United States, those who trail behind the Soviet Union in some parts of the world, and Arab reactionaries in the region. The Arab reactionaries, in particular, who feared that the victory of the Islamic Republic would cost it dearly, embarked on an extensive effort. The world felt that here the victory of the Islamic Republic would determine the fate of Islam. Therefore, all the previous supporters of Saddam felt at this juncture that the assistance they had rendered until then had not been enough, that they had to provide the Saddam regime with assistance in various ways if they were to keep him. Of course none of them then, as now, hoped that Saddam would achieve final victory; but they did want to prevent Saddam from being defeated, eliminated, and pounded.

During the past 2 years, while the Islamic Republic was achieving one victory after another, global arrogance began to prepare vast and comprehensive support for the Iraqi regime. The purpose of this support was to prevent the downfall of the Aflaqite Ba'thist regime. They did so as far as possible.

What you witness at the front—our forces' retreat in al-Faw or in Shalamcheh or in the Majnun Islands, as well as the placing of arms and equipment and resources of all sorts at the disposal of the Iraqi Army—stems from factors and causes dating back a year or two. These things have not happened all at once so that we should ask: What has happened? What has suddenly hapened? These things have not happened suddenly. They were making efforts for a long time.

I can now tell you some of the efforts they made on Saddam's behalf. Of course, I must tell you that no matter how hard they try—this is what I am going to say at the end of my talk, but I say it now just to emphasize the point—no matter how much force they mobilize, no matter how much they support Saddam, in the end Saddam's supporters as well as the people of the world as well as our own heroic nation will have learned through experience that the power of this nation's revolutionary innovation and faith can swiftly master all the enemy's tricks, that by itself it can achieve what it sets out to achieve the way it wants to achieve it, that it can find ways to counter the enemy's moves, and that, God willing, they should expect harder blows from this revolutionary force.

There is no doubt that in such great and historical events, victory belongs to the nation with faith. There should be no doubt at all about this. But, they did what they could. I want to tell you that world arrogance has used everything at its disposal to fortify the Ba'thist regime. I will recount it. First, military equipment. They gave the Iraqis all types of aircraft. I recently heard that Saddam has received an advanced aircraft. France and the Soviet Union have given him aircraft. Probably other countries—like Egypt and so forth—which have the facilities have given him aircraft and other things. They placed advanced tanks, artillery, and long-range missiles at his disposal. The Iraqis claimed: We have made the 500-km missiles. But they were lying. At that time we said that they had not done it. Later on, it came to light that they had not done it; most likely it was the Egyptians, with the help of others, who provided them. This was their military equipment.

Solving financial problems: Financial difficulties are a major problem for a country at war. They solved Saddam's financial problems. That is, the regional reactionaries were not prepared to give financial assistance, because they had lost hope. They were given encouragement and forced to it. Well, these repeated comings and goings of U.S. State Department agents, who went to and fro in the region every month or so, were for a purpose. What was the purpose of all the repeated contacts with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and others? They forced the reactionaries to solve Saddam's financial problems—that is, to continue their financial support. His oil pipeline was cut; Saudi Arabia helped him to repair the pipeline so that his oil sales would resume with ease. He owed a lot of money to many countries. The strange thing is that Iraq's creditors are among both U.S. and Soviet supporters. Both groups agreed to grant more time for the repayment of their loans, to ease the terms, and not be too difficult. In international commercial terms this sort of thing is not done. This was nothing but a political move. [passage omitted]

They solved his political problems. The Arab world was gradually becoming disheartened about Saddam, because Saddam and the Ba'thist regime of Iraq are unpopular among the Arabs. The Arab leaders—those who are helping him now—hate him because his is a mischievous regime. Well, they were forced to help him because they were wary of him. But then, when they realized that he was weak, they gradually isolated him politically. World arrogance, the United States, made a great deal of effort. They travelled to and fro among the countries in the region, held talks with this one and that one and tried to solve his political problems and reduce—or in some cases stop—the Arab reactionaries' loss of faith in him. They organized the hypocrites [Mujahedin-e khalq] as Saddam's advance guards.

This is really a cause of shame for us. A group of Iranian children, under the influence of a number of dishonorable traitors, have gone to Iraq, have become Saddam's advance guards and are working for him. I consider this among the factors strengthening Saddam, not because their work and help are effective. I will explain in what way and how much they have helped Saddam. This should be a lesson for our nation. You should see where misery, cruelty, negligence, and pursuing your desires gets you. A group which claimed that it was ready to fight the United States, certain other powers and so forth, and which considered itself revolutionary and supporters of the Iranian people, the people of Tehran, and other parts of the country—such as Azarbaijan, Khorasan, Khuzestan, Kordestan, and other places, have gone and become mercenaries and servants of Saddam in the worst possible manner.

I wish their form of servitude was not so dishonorable. I will explain their method of assistance. They supply intelligence. Because they speak Persian, they sit by the phone and call up an official, a head of a department or a clergyman, pretending to call from, say, Esfahan, Qom and so forth; and they ask questions about the particulars of the city where that gentleman is. They ask: When are your mobilization forces leaving? When are they bringing your martyrs? Where is such and such secondary school? Where do you sell oil? Or, where are your factories? They ask these questions and secretly pass the information to the enemy, so that the enemy can make use of the information for military or missile attacks. [chants from the crowd] [passage omitted]

World arrogance gave Saddam any form of help they could. They involved some Arab countries. Of course I am not saying this authoritatively, as the definite stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but I am almost sure that Egypt has been alongside Iraq in these military actions. Egypt's arms support to Iraq is certain; we have no doubt about that. But we think that Egypt has helped Iraq further. That is, Egyptian officers and generals came to Iraq and provided ideas and war plans. They were already supplying arms to Iraq: they placed other facilities at Iraq's disposal. In fact, they stood alongside Iraq in the war.

Of course, the United States resorted to other methods and ploys to weaken our people's morale or to strengthen Saddam's regime, some of which I will mention in my speech. For some time, they tried to persuade the Iraqi regime to stage one or two successful offensives on the war fronts, with their political, military, and technical assistance, ideas, money, intelligence, AWACS [Airborne Warning and Control System] and satelites. They mobilized all that so that Saddam could carry out one or two sucessful operations somewhere, to counter the threat of destruction and downfall to Saddam's regime. They have been doing this for 2 years.

Of course, one of the gravest crimes they committed was that they left Iraq free to deploy and produce chemical weapons. Although chemical weapons are not more lethal than conventional ones—a chemical bomb does not cause more deaths than a conventional one and in some cases it causes less—the move is reprehensible and inhuman and it is a criminal act which is prohibited in the world. However, the world kept silent in the face of such a move. The bulk of the chemicals produced do not belong to Iraq—presumably it produces some, but it is given some from abroad, and whatever it produces is made from the necessary raw materials it receives. This is all-round assistance so that Iraq can have something to show in the war following years of defeat and retreat, or stalemate and retreat in the trenches. It was threatening the Saddamite regime with disintegration. There was a lot of effort to drag Saddam from this state; and as you saw, Al-Faw, Shalamcheh, and other events followed.

This is one side of the story. I do not want to claim that we did not waste opportunities and that we did not miss chances or that we did not have shortcomings. I must say frankly that all efforts to help Saddam multiplied many times cannot stand in the way of our devoted and decisive forces, let alone permit any offensives. This is the nature of our ventures. If we had not brought weakness on ourselves, this would have been true. We must accept this.

Some are looking for culprits who were responsible. That is wrong! It is not difficult to look for culprits to punish. Everywhere in the world they do so and we also know how to do it—that is, to say that a few individuals or an organization or a group were at fault. But this is not our Islamic way.

I must tell you that there are some shortcomings. These are shortcomings for which nobody is responsible. A number of elements combined to bring about a shortcoming somewhere. This is what happened to us. It must be corrected; we must reform; we must remove the problems. [passage omitted]

Some weaknesses are related to the frontline. Our organizational work must be better than it is. We must be better prepared; we must make better use of resources. We must pay more attention to the defense lines. We must make better plans. These things relate to frontline affairs. Then there are matters related to behind the lines. Do not think that what goes on behind the lines cannot affect matters at the front.

I say a nation can, through differences and politicization, with corruption, through paying attention to luxuries, through paying attention to personal affairs and profiteering, and by usurping rights, do something which may have negative effect on the battlefields. Those who fight on the battlefields are this socity's sons. Why do we debate and discuss political differences and political encounters? It is for the reason that when political struggles and differences arise, these struggles cannot distinguish between frontline and behind it; such struggles will leave their mark on the battlefield. [passage omitted]

Thank God that inside our trenches and military camps you can find the Koran, prayers, and attention to God. These things must multiply. We must not allow sin to infiltrate the immaculate and sincere battlefront zones. In society we must confront with these things. [passage omitted]

We now want to mount a counteroffensive against the enemy's attack, which it mounted on account of its preparedness during the fourth phase and with the help of the global arrogance and the United States, Europe, the USSR and the reactionaries. Our counteroffensive is the fifth phase.

Obeying their learned and decisive leader, the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation have made their decision. The imam has repeatedly announced his firm decision. The nation follows the imam. We have entered the fifth phase. During this phase brave men will display their power. During the fifth phase we must prove to the enemy that in the balance of power, the superior power is the one which fights while relying on its faith. The superior power fights for right, for God, and without fear of death.

In this phase we must maximize our preparedness. The enemy began psychological warfare against us a long time ago. It is trying to insinuate that responsible Iranian authorities do not want to fight. But is it possible for the responsible authorities to have a different view from the main view of the regime with regard to the war and peace? That is the imam's view. Can the responsible

authorities have a view different from the imam's? The responsible authorities belong to the nation, and they can have no other views than what the nation wants, and they all follow the imam. This is our path, our line, the line to defend Islam and the revolution.

The liberals have recently exploited the opportunity to circulate rumors, write letters, send cables, and embark on these things. As it happens, they embarked on these things at a time when global arrogance was preparing Iraq for its offensive. And these liberals began to act from within. They said: Why are we fighting, why do we not stop behind the frontiers? They were not at all prepared to listen to our legitimate words. Any peace which is created through the power of a malicious, vicious, and expansionist animal in the region will not be peace; it will not be tranquility. [passage omitted]

If a revolution, a new region does not prove that it can defend itself, it must not hope that others will let it live. [passage omitted]

In this fifth phase the people must be prepared. The youth must be prepared. The frontline must be full of people. I first address the commander of the Army and IRGC who must start organizing things. Thank God, since the imam authorized appointing deputy to the commander-in-chief, work has begun to shape up. Of course, one must not expect speedy results. Fundamental work requires time. [passage omitted]

Anybody who has the strength to serve must report to a recruiting center. Conscripts must live up to their responsibility. Some conscripts may not like participating in this great trial, this is a great historic experience for a nation. All the members of the nation must cooperate to maximize our combat power in line with the dangers which threaten us.

We do not expect any favors from the global arrogance or from the great powers. We rely on ourselves and on God. God willing, as in the past when we have always been able to bring the enemy to his knees, we will also do the same this time.

I recommend that all the people, all brothers and sisters throughout the country, be on guard against the enemy's psychologial warfare, more on guard against it than anything else.

Do not listen to rumors which the enemy circulates as part of its psychological warfare. It is like military war. Psychological war is one of the pillars and a backup for military warfare. It is aimed at demoralizing you. Some weak people may well be demoralized. They may say that negotiations are underway, agreements have been written, or are being written, or will be written. It is wrong to attribute foreign ties to it. It is wrong to attribute such motives to responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic who travel abroad.

Ever since we began to assume responsibility our foreign ties have been expanding. We began to expand our foreign ties 6 or 7 years ago. Except for some specific countries, we have established ties with all the countries in the world. Because of some problems, ties were severed, and now we have resumed ties. This development has nothing to do with these problems. The resumption of ties with France and England [as heard], the establishment of relations with another country, the comings and goings of an ambasador from a particular country—these have nothing to do with these problems. The enemy's psychological warfare confuses the people; it steers every incident in the country toward what they want to instill in the people's minds. People must confront psychological warfare with intelligence. You must identify the rumormonger and silence him. Do not spread rumors. You must know that those who spread rumors wil inadvertantly become agents of the enemy. They will serve the enemy without knowing it, without realizing it.

Of course, more than ever the country's resources, government resources, must be placed at the disposal of the war. Thank God, we have taken measures to this end. Government officials, civilian authorities, and those in charge of war must have full coordination to drive forward.

Then the preachers, speakers, writers, newspapers, and so forth must all live up to their responsbility. I ask the newspapers—of course, for now I plead with them but if it fails one must give warning. [Khamene'i changes thought] Some newspapers may work against this revolutionary movement and policy by raising malicious issues. They must beware. The country's newspapers must mobilize the people toward a single front, movement, and line; that is, toward the principal objective. All those who are engaged in press problems and all those who write, those who prepare bulletins for various organizations, must refrain from writing and publishing things which confuse the mind. They must refrain from writing mendacious news, unfounded news, or even some true things which create malice. God willing, in this phase our nation must mobilize and make a move that will delight Muslims and the world observers with regard to the message of the Islamic revolution and the great mission this revolution shoulders. [chants] [passage omitted]

Lavasani Receives UN Chemical Gas Probe Team

LD0407213388 Tehran IRNA in English 2109 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 4, Iran—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Husayn Lavasani criticised the United Nations' previous stands towards Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons, in his meeting with the visiting UN delegation of chemical experts, here Monday.

Lavasani addressing the UN probe team recently back from visit to chemically-bombed regions, said "the Islamic Republic expects you to mirror the facts you have seen in your visit to chemical victims of Iraqi toxic attacks, to the Security Council and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar."

"We expect the UN to keep these facts in mind and accordingly take serious preventive measures against the Iraqi regime, instead of trying to change a humanitarian issue in a political one," he told the team.

Adverting to Resolution 612, which obliges the Security Council to adopt serious preventive measures via-a-vis Iraq's re-deployment of chemical weapons, and also pointing to the Iraqi foreign minister's explicit admission to the use of internationally-banned toxic substances, the Iranian official said these glaring facts have placed a heavier responsibility on the UN for decisively countering the Iraqi regime's crimes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran not only calls on international circles to condemn the Iraqi regime's use of lethal gases but also expects these respected bodies to prevent such inhuman acts through their categorical measures, he said.

In reply a UN delegate said that his team has come to Iran with the humanitarian purpose of probing the effects of the Iraqi regime's chemical attacks on people and environment. The team, he added, will immediately submit its investigation report to the UN secretary general.

The UN probe team including Manuel Dominguez, Erick Dahlgren and Vincente Ernesto Berastegui arrived in Tehran Friday to probe war zones contaminated by Iraqi use of lethal gases.

Commentary Examines Organization of War Effort

LD0307151088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Station Commentary: "Extensive Organization Is the First Necessity for the Fifth Phase of the Imposed War"]

[Excerpts] The statements last night by Hojjat-ol Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani deserves a great deal of importance in view of the new war conditions and the beginning of the war's fifth phase.

What attracted most attention in the statements of the acting commander in chief of the forces, which can be presented in the form of a summing-up, was the emphasis on organizing the forces and resources to advance the objectives of the Islamic Revolution in various areas including the imposed war. What is needed in this serious period in the life of the country and the revolution is the task of ogranization. Such an organizational feat at the level of war command can lead to complete and strong planning and that in turn can facilitate effective measures to advance the war on a long-term basis and through suitable timing with regard to military and political situations.

Another part of this organizational task relates to the combat forces. Emergency conditions and the beginning of the fifth phase of the imposed war require the presence of people's forces on the battlefields on a vast scale. However, it is possible to prevent wastage of forces through precise organization and planning. [passage omitted]

It is clear to all that the imperialists used the Iraqi regime and caused the war to break our Islamic regime, or at least to tame it so that it would toe their line. It is obvious that the task of confronting such a situation must be shouldered not only by some sections of society. It requires the overall cooperation of everyone. [passage omitted]

It was said that organizing the task of attracting forces must be combined with decisive measures, measures which must also be followed up. Though reliance on the popular nature of the war is in line with the dispatch of mobilization forces, jet projects such as an extension of the draft term and/or new programs on this score enable the commanders to have access to a regular and stable base.

Another part of this organizational task relates to the way the country's resources are placed at the disposal of the war. It is obvious that in this sector too there is a need for a consolidated planning. The essence of this planning must not be impaired through hasty measures and untimely statements.

The renewed attacks of the Iraqi regime against several points on the frontline, which most certainly were mounted through the help of and coordination with the imperialists, make us aware that we should make a new assessment of our means and resources. [passage omitted]

The demand of our country's Muslim people for the aggressor to repent and restore their Islamic and national rights has been branded by the imperialistic propaganda monopolies as if the Iranians are warmongers and they accept no other solution to the war. It is within the framework of such massive adverse propaganda that the former U.S. war minister [as heard] allows himself to talk of drying up the roots of the Iranian nation; or the enemy foreign minister explicitly and proudly talks of the use of chemical weapons in the war.

To confront such propaganda we must first refrain from making more enemies for ourselves. We must not force all those who could stay neutral or refrain from open enmity into a stance of intransignece.

It must be said that the Muslim people of Iran demand the punishment of the aggressor and restoration of just and lasting peace, one that can eradicate aggression from the region for ever. However, since the imperialists, who unfortunately control the power of decisionmaking in world forums, do not want and cannot accept this demand. Therefore, we have no alternative other than to continue the sacred war.

The combatants who fight on the battlefields, or the people who are ready to place their resources at the disposal of the war, have objectives which may be achieved either through peace or through war. However, since others, and the deterrent [as heard] forces, are not willing to have a just peace, then for our people and the combatants there remains no alternative other than to continue the war to achieve their objectives this way.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,250

LD0107172488 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA—Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Thursday raging somewhat more heavily in Zeydi and Sumar, southern and western fronts, where Iraqi troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment.

Announcing the above here Friday, the 3250th Joint Staff communique said Iranian Air Force jets on their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea yesterday reconnoitered 68 vessels of various kinds including cargo ships, launches and warships.

Iranian naval gunboats intercepted a cargo ship suspected of carrying cargo for Iraq yesterday and escorted it to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection Thursday but released it at 11:30 hours local time (08:00 GMT) Friday after being satisfied there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard it. the gunboats also closely monitored movement of foreign warships and of six Iraqi vessels in Persian Gulf waters yesterday.

On Thursday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in zones of their influence yesterday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several bunkers and gun emplacements of theirs, the communique said.

Sanandaj Airspace Violated

LD0207104488 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov., July 2, IRNA—A few Iraqi war planes violated the air space of Sanandaj Sunday [as received] morning.

The planes were repelled with heavy fire of the Iranian Air Force and broke the sound barrier over the city's air space while fleeing back to the Iraqi territory.

Hajj 'Umran Sector Bombed

LD0207110088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, at 1000 today in a successful operation with fighter-bombers, intensely bombed and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the troop concentration and fortifications of the forces of the Iraqi regime in the Hajj 'Umran operational sector. According to this report, the pilots all returned safely to base after carrying out this mission.

Communique No 3,251

LD0207164988 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded Iraqi fortifications and troop concentration sites in Hajj 'Umran region, northeastern Iraq, at 10:00 hours local time (06:30 GMT) Saturday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

Announcing the above, the 3251st Joint Staff communique reported here today that all fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the bombing mission.

In the Strait of Hormuz Friday, Iranian naval units intercepted and searched four cargo ships and oil tankers suspected of carrying cargo for Iraq but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

On the battlefields, Muslim forces of Iran continued their artillery and mortar duels with Iraqi troops yesterday, killing and wounding a large number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze vast part of their fortifications.

In Panjwin, northwestern sector, heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants repelled an Iraqi patrol convoy and routed an enemy infantry unit yesterday.

Activities of Iraqi armoured and motorized units in Kalaleh, Hajj 'Umran, Sumar, Helaleh, Mehran, Naft-e Shahr, Nahr 'Anbar and Yabis theatres were checked by Iranian artillery fire Friday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,252

LD0307170188 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Iranian naval units intercepted and searched six cargo ships and oil tankers, in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3452nd [number as received] Joint Staff communique said that Iran's Muslim combatants continued their artillery, mortar and other heavy gun battles with Iraqi troops throughout the battlefields yesterday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

Iranian artillery fired on an Iraq patrol unit in Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, yesterday, killing and wounding a number of enemy patrolmen.

In Helaleh and 'Eyn Khvosh, southern fronts, Iraqi troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment and enemy engineering operations were halted by Iranian artillery fire Saturday.

On Saturday, Iranian gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in zones of their influence, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying seven gun emplacements, a watch tower and a communication pylon.

Heavy fire of Iranian combatants checked movement of Iraqi armoured and motorized units in Sar Dasht, Kani Shaykh, Nahr 'Anbar, Chazabeh, Tayyebabad, Naft-e Shahr, Mandali and Abuobeideh [placename as received] Saturday, concluded the communique.

Iraq Shells Sar Dasht

LD0407071988 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., July 4, IRNA—The border town of Sar Dasht, south of here, came under long-range Iraqi artillery shelling for five hours early this morning as a result of which a number of people were martyred and wounded.

The governor of the town told IRNA that the shelling started at 02:00 hours Monday (22:30 GMT Sunday) which he said martyred two people and injured 11 others. He added that 20 homes and shops were destroyed and a number of vehicles were damaged.

Another report said that 12 border villages near Sar Dasht were also shelled by the Iraqi Army and as a result a number of civilian casualties were inflicted.

Isfahan Airspace Violated

LD0407102288 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Iraqi war planes violated the airspace of Isfahan Province Monday morning and broke the sound barrier.

Intruding Iraqi planes also violated airspace of Baneh and Saqqez in Kurdistan Province Monday morning. The planes fled when faced with the heavy fire of the Iranian air defence units.

Anti-Aircraft Fire in Ahvaz

LD0407195588 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 4, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated Iran's air space over Ahvaz today morning.

The intruding Iraqi planes broke the sound barrier when forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Iraqi planes also broke the sound barrier over Sanandaj Sunday morning and were repelled with heavy fire of the Iranian Air Force.

Communique No 3,253

LD0407201288 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants inflicted heavy damage and casualties on Iraqi forces and forced them to retreat from Panjwin Heights region Sunday, said a Military Communique today.

The 3253rd Joint Staff Communique added that a large number of Iraqi corpses as well as a good amount of military equipment littered in the operational region after the Iraqi attack ended in defeat when faced by heavy Iranian fire. The enemy attempted its attack at 03:00 hours local time yesterday.

Also, two other skirmishes have broken out between Muslim combatants and Iraqi forces in heights and regions located west of Sar Dasht operational region since 02:00 hours local time today. Iraqi troops have so far sustained heavy casualties and damage in the region where the clashes still rage on.

Motorized movement and activities of Iraqi Army were brought to a halt in Hajj 'Umran, Alvatan, Kani Shaykh, Nahr 'Anbar, Sharani and Zobeydeh regions over the past 24 hours.

Iranian combatants opened fire at Iraqi armoured units and tanks in Helaleh, Sumar, Zurbatiyah and Mehran, destroying two tanks and some artillery pieces.

In Eyn Khosh, Nahr 'Anbar, Yabis and east of Basra, engineering activities of Iraqi forces were subjected to Iranian artillery fire yesterday, cuasing substantial enemy casualties and damage.

Several Iraqi patrol groups were subjected to Iranian fire in Nahr 'Anbar and Panjwin Sunday and forced to flee with casualties.

Iran's naval forces Sunday searched five foreign cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. Also activities of three Iraqi vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and around Al-Bakr and Al- 'Amayah platforms in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf were checked, concluded the Communique.

Iraq Bombs Bushehr; 1 Killed

LD0407201988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The criminal Iraqi regime's planes violated our country's airspace this afternoon and bombed a residential area near the town of Bushehr. As a result of this wicked act, some damage was sustained and one of our compatriots was martyred.

5 Die in Sar Dasht Air Raid

LD0407224088 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbaijan Prov., July 4, IRNA—The number of civilians martyred in Iraqi shelling of Sar Dasht on early Monday reached five.

The Iraq regime shelled Sar Dasht and the nearby villages for five hours last night. There are no reports available on the number of martyrs and injured or the damage inflicted on the nearby villages.

Meanwhile, Iraqi warplanes again violated the air space of Sar Dasht at 12:50 hours local time Monday. The intruding Iraqi planes were forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Reports reaching here from inside Iraqi say two children were martyred and some dmaage inflicted on residential units, when Iraqi regime shelled two Kurdish populated villages in northern Iraq over the past two days.

The villages, Yanki and Bilzan [names as received] are located in Zakhu and Amadiyah regions.

Shelling of Qal'at Dizah Denied

LD0507082688 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today refuted Iraqi regime's claims that Iranian combatants had shelled Bimalek residential complex in Qal'at Dizah border township, northeastern Iraq.

"Iraqi claims have become commonplace and the world people have long since realized that Iran has never initiated a war of cities," said the spokesman.

It is the Iraqi regime which always ignites the war of cities, the latest example of which was shelling of Iranian border town of Sar Dasht on Monday, where at least 20 shops and houses were destroyed, the spokesman said.

Iraq Shells Sar Dasht

LD0507144788 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., July 5 IRNA—The Iraqi regime shelled 24 villages around Sar Dasht, northwestern Iran, for two days intermittently.

The enemy had also been shelling Sar Dasht town since 02:00 hours local time Monday (22:30 GMT Sunday).

Meanwhile, Iraqi warplanes bombed several northwestern villages Monday afternoon as a result of which some houses and farmlands were damaged.

Communique No 3,254

LD0507181388 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Iraqi troops, supported by artillery fire, helicopter gunships and warplanes vainly attempted to retake "Dopaza" heights in Sar Dasht region, northwesten sector, but were forced to retreat when faced with the firm resistance of Iranian combatants.

The 3254th joint staff communique, announcing the above, reported here Tuesday that a large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two enemy helicopter gunships downed during the crushed attack.

Muslim forces of Iran also smashed another Iraqi attack to recapture heights 1342 and Shakhnal Shekineh [name as received] heights in Panjwin region, northeastern Iraq, early Monday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy and capturing some enemy soldiers. A large amount of enemy military hardware was also seized intact.

On Monday, several civilians were martyred and wounded and some houses damaged when Iraqi troops pounded residential areas in the northwestern Iranian border town of Sar Dasht.

Elsewhere in the battlefronts, exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued yesterday, as a result of which an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and three munitions dumps set ablaze.

In Shiller [name as received], Sharani and Nahr 'Anbar, southern and western sectors, Iranian forces shelled Iraqi motorized columns yesterday, destroying some enemy vehicles and killing all their crews, the communique said.

Meanwhile, Iranian naval units, in addition to controlling shipping in the Strait of Hormuz Monday, closely monitored movement of some Iraqi vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and around the Al-Bakr and al-'Amayah oil platforms, it added.

Tehran Air Defense System Test Carried Out

LD0307082388 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Tehran's anti-aircraft network test-fired for 30 minutes form 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning following a relatively short lull in Iraq's missile attacks on Tehran.

A marked improvement in Tehran's air-defence system has substantially curtailed violation of the airspace here by the Iraqi warplanes.

Pakistan

Pro-Iranian Students Protest at U.S. Consulate

BK0507005488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0042 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, July 5 (AFP)—Students chanting "Death to America" demonstrated outside the U.S. Consulate here Tuesday against the shooting down of an Iranian airliner in the Gulf Sunday, police sources and witnesses said.

The several dozen pro-Iranian students belonging to the Imamia Students Organisation tried to force their way into the consulate, but police dispersed them by hurling tear gas grenades, the witnesses said.

Six students were detained, police sources said.

It was the first anti-U.S. demonstration in Pakistan since the U.S. Navy shot down the plane, killing the nearly 300 people on board.

Washington expressed regret, describing the incident as an accident.

Leading Pakistani newspapers Tuesday condemned Sunday's U.S. attack.

The country's opposition leaders also issued statements criticising U.S. involvement in the Gulf, while the Lahore Bar Association, the premier Pakistani lawyers' forum, condemned the incident and said the Third World was "suffering heavily at the hands of U.S. militarism".

It said the U.S. Navy's action was "part of the U.S. expansionist policy" of cowing down those engaged in preserving their independence.

Court Sentences Palestinian Hijackers to Death

WA0607144888 Paris AFP in English 1327 GMT 6 Jul 88

Rawalpindi, Pakistan, July 6 (AFP)—A Pakistani court Wednesday sentenced five Palestinians to death for hijacking an American airliner and killing 22 passengers at Karachi airport in September 1986.

Four of the Palestinians were captured when Pakistani commandos stormed the Pan Am 747 while the fifth, Sulayman al-Turki, who is said to have masterminded the 16-hour hijack drama, was later arrested at Islamabad airport.

The four were identified only as Mustafa, Mansur, Walid and Fahd.

Judge Zafar Ahmed Babar found the five guilty and sentenced them to death at the end of an eight-month trial in a special court in Rawalpindi's Adiala maximum security prison.

The court also passed a total jail sentence of 257 years on each of the accused on several charges, including murder and conspiracy to hijack, possession of illegal arms and confinement of the passengers.

The hijackers, disguised as airport security staff, forced their way onto the aircraft after wounding two baggage loaders on the tarmac on September 5, 1986.

The plane had arrived from Bombay en route to New York via Frankfurt.

Twenty-two people were killed when the hijackers reportedly "went bersek" and began firing as the aircraft's generator ran out of fuel, cutting the power supply. Army commandos then stormed the plane.

UN's Cordovez Visits To Discuss Geneva Accord

Confers With Ziaul Haq

BK0107160388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's special representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, exchanged views on the implementation of the Geneva accord with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq by telephone in Islamabad today.

In an interview, Diego Cordovez expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the Geneva accord. He said he has received messages from the leaders of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, in which they stated that they have been considering measures to solve the issue. When he was asked whether he had brought any new proposals for

talks between various Afghan groups, he replied in the negative. He said the talks between the various Afghan groups should be held by the people of Afghanistan themselves.

Cordovez said he has tried to assess the stand and thinking of the various groups on this issue. They wish for an end to their difficulties created by their quarrels. All the Afghan refugees desire for the establishment of a stable government in Afghanistan and to return to their homeland. Cordovez said he is ready to make every possible effort to pave the way for a solution to this problem, but, he said, he does not have any formula for this.

Diego Cordovez met with the officials of the UN mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan. He exchanged views with them on the progress toward the implementation of the Geneva accord, the various allegations of the parties concerned about the violation of the Geneva accord, and on the organizational affairs of the mission.

According to his schedule, Cordovez will meet with the Pakistani authorities tomorrow to assess the progress toward the implementation of the Geneva accord.

Meets Yaqub Khan 2 Jul

BK0207154688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, held talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today. During the talks, which were marked by an attitude of cooperation, identity of views was noted and various issues relating to the authority given to Cordovez in connection with implementation of the Geneva accord were reviewed.

The talks mostly centered around the modalities of satisfactory implementation of all clauses of the Geneva accord. The UN secretary general's personal representative was assured of all possible cooperation in supervising the process of implementation of the Geneva accord.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent understands that the two sides have appreciated each other's viewpoints and expressed satisfaction over their identity of each other's views will be of great help in implementing all aspects of the Geneva accord.

At the talks, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was assisted by senior officials of the Foreign Office, while Cordovez by members of his delegation.

Meets With Ziaul Haq

BK0307060488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening. He reviewed the situation in Afghanistan and expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the Geneva accord. On this occasion, they expressed the hope that peace will soon be established in Afghanistan and that the more than 3 million Afghan refugees will be able to return to their country with dignity and in safety.

At the talks, they agreed that the Geneva accord has paved the way for setting up a government in Afghanistan that would enjoy the confidence of the people. Senior Federal Minister Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and senior members of the delegation of Diego Cordovez were also present on the occasion. Later, the president hosted a dinner in honor of the distinguished guests.

Addresses Afghan Refugees

BK0307080088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, has called upon Afghans to use their traditional way to find an acceptable and permanent solution to the Afghanistan problem. Addressing a gathering of Afghan refugees at Kachchagarhi near Peshawar today, he said the future of Afghanistan has to be determined by the Afghan people themselves and he was there to help and encourage an intra-Afghan dialogue.

Later, Mr Cordovez visited Michni Post where he was given a detailed account of the Pak-Afghan border.

Meets Again With Yaqub Khan

BK0407160488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, met with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today. The activities of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] were reviewed at the meeting. The foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to fulfill its responsibilities under the Geneva accord and to assist the UN mission in completing the task entrusted to it.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan assured Diego Cordovez that Pakistan will extend full cooperation to the UNGOMAP in the future. Cordovez commended Pakistan for assisting the UN mission in carrying out its duties and expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the

Geneva accord. He thanked the Government of Pakistan for arranging his visit to the border region of Landi Kotal and his meeting with Afghan refugees in Peshawar.

The foreign minister and Cordovez agreed that all concerned parties should refrain from carrying out propaganda in order to ensure the true implementation of the Geneva accord and to adopt the modalities as have been determined in the accord for investigating charges of violations.

Leaves Islamabad for Kabul

BK0507112888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's special representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, left Islamabad this afternoon for the Afghan capital for talks with Kabul regime officials.

In an interview before his departure, Mr Cordovez said he had been deputed to facilitate communication between the parties concerned in connection with the solution to the Afghanistan problem. He reaffirmed that the Afghans themselves would decided about their government without any external influence.

During his 6-day stay in Pakistan, Mr Cordovez had two rounds of talks with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. It was agreed that faithful implementation of the Geneva accord is essential and the parties concerned should follow the procedure for the investigation of complaints regarding violations as laid down in the accord.

Mr Cordovez is expected back in Islamabad on Friday [8 July].

Pilot Killed in Karachi Air Force Plane Crash

BK0607113588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] A PAF [Pakistan Air Force] aircraft crashed in the (Site) area of Karachi while on a routine training flight this morning. An ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] press release says the pilot of the aircraft, Flying Officer (Khalid Owais) sustained fatal injuries. There were also some loss of civilian lives and property.

Prompt relief measures were taken in the affected area, and arrangements are being made to provide immediate and adequate compensation to the affected persons. An inquiry into the incident has been ordered.

11 Civilians Killed

BK0607075088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Karachi, July (AFP)—At least 11 people were killed and more than 20 injured when a Pakistan Air Force plane crashed in Karachi's industrial district Wednesday, hospital sources said.

Eleven people were killed instantly when the plane, believed to be a Mirage jet, crashed in a busy industrial estate as the labour force was arriving for work, the sources said.

About 25 people were taken to hospital, where unconfirmed reports said two of them later died.

The plane developed technical problems soon after it took off from an Air Force base near here at about 8:30 am Wednesday.